

# UNITED NATIONS IRAQ

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

2025-2029



UNITED NATIONS  
IRAQ



Government of  
the Republic of Iraq

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## Joint Statement of the United Nations and the Government of the Republic of Iraq<sup>1</sup>

This United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (*henceforth the 'UN Cooperation Framework'*) represents an expression of the deep and enduring partnership between the Government and people in Iraq and the United Nations, and to our joint commitment to the country's peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable development. As such, the Government of Iraq and the

United Nations seek to the strengthening and deepening of their partnership through this UN Cooperation Framework, and in support of the national development priorities of the Government of Iraq, as outlined in the **National Development Plan 2024–2028 and Vision 2030, to ensure the well-being and prosperity of all the people of Iraq.**



**H.E. Dr. Mohammed Ali Tamim**  
Minister of Planning



**Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Isaczai**  
United Nations Resident Coordinator for Iraq

<sup>1</sup> References to Government of Iraq means the federal government in Baghdad wherever it is mentioned in the document, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

# Agency Signature Page<sup>2</sup>



**Igor BOSCH**  
Country Coordinator, OIC  
International Labor Organization - ILO

REYNTJENS  
Pascal Andre a.  
Digitally signed by REYNTJENS Pascal Andre a.  
Date: 2025.12.22 07:37:42  
+01'00'

**Pascal A. REYNTJENS**  
Chief of Mission  
International Organization for Migration - IOM



**Rita Gunaryati LUBIS**  
Deputy Director & Officer-in-Charge United Nations Mine  
Action Service - UNMAS



**Muhammad USMAN AKRAM**  
Representative and Director of the Operational Hub in  
Amman - UNOPS



**Zeesnan AMIN**  
Head of Office  
United Nations Office of Counter - Terrorism - UNOCT



**Mazen SHAQOURA**  
Regional Representative  
for Middle East and North Africa Office of the United Nations High  
Commissioner for Human Rights - OHCHR



**Escipion Joaquin OLIVEIRA GOMEZ**  
Director of Country Programmes  
International Trade Centre - ITC



**Christian SKOOG**  
Representative  
United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF



**Cristina ALBERTIN**  
Regional Representative  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - UNODC



**Hind JALAL**  
Representative  
United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA



**Lilia BAHLOUL**  
Representative  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - UNCTAD



**Titon MITRA**  
Resident Representative  
United Nations Development Programme - UNDP



**Olga ZUBRITSKAYA-DEVYATKINA**  
Regional Manager  
UNV Regional Office for the Arab States - UNDSS



**Amit SINGH**  
Representative, OIC  
World Food Programme - WFP



**Alexander MAKARIGAKIS**  
Representative  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural  
Organization - UNESCO



**Janneke van der Graaff-KUKLER**  
Deputy Regional Representative  
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment  
of Women - UNWOMEN




**Jamela AL-RAIBY**  
Representative  
World Health Organization - WHO



**Salah ELHAJJ HASSAN**  
Representative  
Food and Agriculture Organization - FAO



**Sami DIMASSI**  
Regional Representative  
United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP



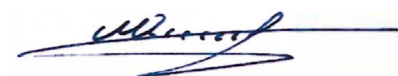
**Katharina LUMPP**  
Representative  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR



**Vrej JIJYAN**  
Country Director,  
International Fund  
for Agricultural Development - IFAD

**Karim Khalil**

**Karim KHALIL**  
Secretary of the Commission  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission of  
Western Asia - ESCWA



**Muslim QAZIMI**  
Head of Country Programme  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme - UNHABITAT



**Hanan HANZAZ**  
Chief, Regional Bureau for the Arab Region  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization - UNIDO



**Raidan ALSAQF**  
Deputy Chief of office - United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction  
UNDRR - Regional office for Arab States - UNDRR

<sup>2</sup> This Cooperation framework covers the work of the United Nations agencies and bodies that have signed it exclusively.

## Abbreviations

<b>BOS</b>	● Business Operations Strategy
<b>CCA</b>	● Common Country Analysis
<b>DM&amp;E</b>	● Data, Monitoring, and Evaluation (Working Group)
<b>GDP</b>	● Gross Domestic Product
<b>IDPs</b>	● Internally Displaced Persons
<b>KRG</b>	● Kurdistan Regional Government
<b>MEL</b>	● Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
<b>MSME</b>	● Micro, Small, and Medium Sized Enterprises
<b>NDP</b>	● National Development Plan
<b>NGO</b>	● Non-Governmental Organization
<b>OMT</b>	● Operations Management Team
<b>PMT</b>	● Programme Management Team
<b>PSEA</b>	● Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>RCO</b>	● Resident Coordinator's Office
<b>SDGs</b>	● Sustainable Development Goals
<b>TVET</b>	● Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>UN</b>	● United Nations
<b>UNCT</b>	● United Nations Country Team

## ■ UN Entities Operating in Iraq

<b>FAO</b>	● Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>IFAD</b>	● International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>ILO</b>	● International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	● International Organization for Migration
<b>ITC</b>	● International Trade Centre
<b>OCHA</b>	● Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>OHCHR</b>	● Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>UNCTAD</b>	● United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDP</b>	● United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNDRR</b>	● United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>UNDSS</b>	● United Nations Department for Safety and Security
<b>UNESCO</b>	● United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNEP</b>	● United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNFPA</b>	● United Nations Population Fund
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	● United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	● United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	● United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	● United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNMAS</b>	● United Nations Mine Action Service
<b>UNOCT</b>	● United Nations Office of Counterterrorism
<b>UNODC</b>	● United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOPS</b>	● United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>UNV</b>	● United Nations Volunteers
<b>UN ESCWA</b>	● United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
<b>UN Women</b>	● United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>WFP</b>	● World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	● World Health Organization

# 1. Executive Summary

Iraq has made significant gains on its path towards sustainable and inclusive development. The stabilized and improved security, political, and humanitarian context, as well as the country's social and economic gains, offers enormous opportunities for Iraq to accelerate its progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Building upon its achievements, Iraq has significant opportunities to address key areas in the coming years, including diversifying its economy, accelerating social development and poverty reduction, and strengthening resilience to the growing impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. These are crucial for ensuring the nation's long-term prosperity.

In light of these developments, and in response to Iraq's evolving needs and growing national capacities, the UN has significantly scaled back its humanitarian response and repositioned itself to focus on more effective support. The humanitarian response has been significantly scaled back, will see the progressive drawdown and ultimate closure of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) by the end of 2025. While the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2732 (2024) on 31 May 2024, the transition will be implemented in accordance with The UN Secretary General's transition and liquidation plan for UNAMI (S/2024/966) approved in December 31, 2024, as requested by the UN Security Council.

To support Iraq's next phase of development, the UN has launched a new Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2025–2029) to deliver more integrated, and coordinated support aligned to support Iraq during the upcoming phase.

In the context of such significant developments, the UN in Iraq has formulated a new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework to guide the UN system's collective, coherent, and coordinated response in Iraq for the years 2025 to 2029.

In preparation for this framework, the UN in Iraq undertook a comprehensive and multidimensional Common Country Analysis (CCA) to assess the context and needs of the country against the framework of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. In accordance with Iraq's priorities outlined in the National Development Plan and National data, the results and recommendations of this analysis were used to develop the new document.

Under the leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning, and the UN Resident Coordinator, extensive consultations were undertaken with Federal Government partners, as well as the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and other sub-national authorities. Wide-ranging engagements were also held with various other stakeholders, including, but not limited to, civil society organizations, women, youth, and representatives of persons with disabilities, displacement affected populations, etc. — international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the international donor community, international financial institutions, private sector representatives, and social partners, amongst others.

Cumulatively, this process resulted in the identification and elaboration of four interconnected and mutually reinforcing Strategic Priorities against which the UN Cooperation Framework is framed, namely:

In accordance with the agenda 2030 principle to 'Leave no one Behind', the UN Cooperation Framework prioritizes the particular needs and aspirations of women, girls, youth, and those most vulnerable and marginalized, including children, displacement affected populations, refugees and asylum seekers, persons with disabilities, , amongst others, are fully integrated and addressed.

As the UN Cooperation Framework serves as the UN's collective contribution in support of the realization of Iraq's national objectives, its priorities align directly with those of the Government of Iraq's National Development Plan 2024–2028, as well as its Vision 2030 strategy, thereby ensuring maximum coherence and complementarity across UN and national plans. In partnership with the Government of Iraq, the UN Cooperation Framework will also serve as the primary mechanism to inform the UNAMI transition and the transfer of relevant aspects of its mandate to other UN entities operating in the country.

Given the gradual transition from an integrated UN Special Political Mission with high humanitarian needs to an approach primarily focused on long-term development, the United Nations in Iraq conducted a capacity mapping exercise of the UN Country Team (UNCT) to assess the collective capacities and resources of UN entities to ensure delivery on the commitments under the UN Cooperation Framework.

To ensure joint ownership and management of UN Cooperation Framework UN-Government Steering Committee will provide strategic oversight and direction for the implementation of the Framework. Results Groups composed of relevant UN and Government entities, will provide technical guidance and ensure coherence across strategic priorities through increasing use of joint programming instruments and activities. An elaborate results, monitoring, and reporting framework will ensure accountability through monitoring of outcome and output-level indicator frameworks, development of joint workplans, annual UN Results Reports, and the Framework's final independent evaluation.

Cumulatively, this UN Cooperation Framework represents the UN's collective commitment towards sustainable and inclusive development for all people in Iraq, particularly those most vulnerable and a continuation of the close and enduring partnership with the Government of Iraq towards a shared objective of achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

## 1. Inclusive Social Development

(including Health and Nutrition Systems; Quality Education; Social Protection; and Sustainable Cities and Communities)

## 2. Sustainable Economic Development, Livelihoods, and Employment

(including Economic Governance; Private Sector Development; and Employability and Skills)

## 3. Environment and Climate Change Resilience

(including Climate Action; Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Management; Efficient Use and Management of Water Resources; and Disaster Risk Reduction)

## 4. Good Governance, Rule of Law

(including Inclusive, Effective, and Accountable Governance; the rule of law and prosperity Security, Justice, and the Rule of Law; Enabling Community Cohesion)

## 2. Progress Towards the 2030 Agenda

Iraq's journey towards achieving the SDGs is marked by a mix of advancements and ongoing challenges. However, limited data availability imposes impediments to accurately assessing the country's progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

According to the UN Statistical Division, only 64 per cent of the SDG framework's 169 targets have sufficient data for measurement, 10 per cent have insufficient data, while 26 per cent have no data. Of those targets whose progress was measurable, 30 per cent are assessed to be "on track", 31 per cent are "in progress", while 38 per cent

are "off track".<sup>3</sup> The 2024 Sustainable Development Report provides Iraq a SDG Index score of 64.2, ranking it 108 out of 167 countries assessed.<sup>4</sup> The Report determines that 42.1 per cent of SDG targets are "achieved or on track", 33.3 per cent had "limited progress", while 24.6 per cent were "worsening".<sup>5</sup>

This analysis underscores the importance of continued and enhanced efforts to report evidence and accelerate advocacy and action in various areas to leave no one behind and to meet the ambitious goals of the SDGs if they are to be achieved in Iraq by 2030.

Figure 1 SDG progress and trends in Iraq (Sustainable Development Report 2024)



### 2.1 Country Context

#### Resident UN Entities

Iraq has made notable progress in strengthening its political institutions and governance mechanisms. The elections in 2021 and 2023 are emblematic of the Government's commitment to democratic processes, with ongoing reforms aimed at enhancing public confidence and transparency. Although challenges such as lower voter turnout were observed, as is the case in many countries around the world, they also present opportunities for greater civic engagement in future elections.

The Government of Iraq has made significant strides in advancing political inclusion and addressing governance issues. These efforts are particularly reflected in the increased representation of women in parliament and local councils, with women holding 29 per cent of seats in parliament and 13 per cent in ministerial positions.<sup>7</sup> In addition, women won 26.7 per cent of seats in the 2023 Governorate Council elections, thereby exceeding the 25 per cent minimum quota for women's representation.

Regarding human rights, Iraq has witnessed significant improvements; however, certain areas require further efforts, particularly concerning access to services, and protection of vulnerable groups. Additionally, the remnants of unexploded ordnance from successive wars

in Iraq continue to endanger civilians, restrict access to infrastructure, essential services, and livelihoods, and demand intensified efforts to mitigate these risks, ensure a safe and stable environment for all.

#### Human Development (People)

Iraq is experiencing a significant demographic shift, with a predicted surge in population 46.,118.,793 million in 2024 to an estimated 74.5 million by 2050.<sup>6</sup> This rapid growth, and its resultant burgeoning youth population, poses both opportunities and challenges for economic growth and social stability, while also requiring effective policy responses to manage its broader implications.

Aligned with its national development goals, Iraq is committed to improving its human development indicators, as reflected by its 2022 ranking of 128 out of 203 countries in the Human Development Index. Progress has been made aiming to reduce poverty to 17.5% of the population living below the poverty line, with a particular emphasis on the 8.7 million children facing multidimensional poverty, and female-headed households experiencing disproportionate hardship. There is also significant opportunity to expand social protection.

Iraq has achieved notable improvements in key health outcomes over the past decade, including an overall increase in coverage of essential health services, rising life expectancy, and declines in maternal and child mortality rates.<sup>7</sup> The Government of Iraq continues to make efforts to improve the quality and accessibility of health and nutrition services, notably through the launch of the Early Childhood Development Strategy 2022–2031 and Nutrition Strategy 2024–2030, and the advancement of other multi-disciplinary approaches to health. While access to essential health services and coverage is high, utilization of public healthcare services remains low. Per capita health expenditure in 2021 was US\$ 278.9, representing 5.48 per cent of GDP, one of the lowest in the region.

Iraq's health sector continues to face significant challenges, including damage to health infrastructure and distribution of primary healthcare facilities, outdated operational standards, and limited institutional capacity. One in five children suffers from malnutrition, while only 35% of the

population has access to basic food needs. Maternal and child health services still require sustained attention to ensure equitable access to healthcare, particularly in rural areas and among the most vulnerable groups. Addressing these challenges calls for strengthened investments and health policies to establish a more efficient, accessible, equitable, and sustainable healthcare system.

Notable progress has also been made on access to quality **education**, including for refugees and asylum seekers, as demonstrated by increasing literacy and school enrolment rates, enabled by the Iraq National Education Strategy 2022–2031. However, estimates from 2021–2022 indicate 2.8 million children were out of school, of which 464,400 were of primary school age.<sup>8</sup> Declining literacy rates, particularly amongst rural women and children with disabilities, impediments to access to education, increased school dropouts, and child marriages also continue to limit opportunities for women and girls. Strengthening the education system will require further investments in technology, infrastructure, and teacher and administrator capacity development to prepare the educational system for an increasing youth population.

Access to safely managed drinking **water** increased from (39.2%) per cent of the population in 2000 to 60 per cent in 2022,<sup>9</sup> equivalent to 10%. While the proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services reached 91.8% in 2022, these rates remain significantly below global and regional averages. Around seven million people in Iraq still suffer from limited access to safe drinking water, posing major challenges to the country's water and health security.<sup>10</sup>

Chronic housing shortages, exacerbated by rapid population growth, large-scale migration from rural to urban areas, lack of livelihood opportunities, and climate change impacts, has led to an increased demand for housing.

<sup>3</sup> UN Statistical Division SDG Global Database publishes data on behalf of the custodian agencies and includes five types of data: country, country adjusted, estimated, modelled and global indicators. Analysis as October 2023. Data available at ESCWA Iraq SDG Monitor dashboard.

<sup>4</sup> The overall score measures the total progress towards achieving all 17 SDGs. The score can be interpreted as a percentage of SDG achievement. A score of 100 indicates that all SDGs have been achieved.

<sup>5</sup> Sachs, J.D., LaFortune, G., Fuller, G. (2024). The SDGs and the UN Summit of the Future. Sustainable Development Report 2024. Paris: SDSN, Dublin: Dublin University Press.

<sup>6</sup> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, World Population Prospects, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Universal healthcare coverage data from WHO Global Health Observatory; Life expectancy data from WHO; Maternal Mortality data from WHO; and Child mortality data from UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation.

<sup>8</sup> Iraq Ministry of Education, Out of School Children Analysis, 2022.

<sup>9</sup> UN Iraq, Briefing to the UN Security Council, SRSG Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, 18 May 2023.

<sup>10</sup> UN Iraq, Briefing to the UN Security Council, SRSG Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, 18 May 2023.

Furthermore, destruction of territories overtaken in Iraq by terrorist organizations led by ISIS has also contributed to housing shortages. In addition, Iraq's historical and cultural sites have been devastated by conflict, particularly in cities like Mosul which witnessed the destruction of over 80 per cent of its historical fabric over the course of four years.<sup>11</sup>

### ■ Economic Development (Prosperity)

Iraq's economy remains heavily dependent on the oil sector, accounting for 61 per cent of real GDP in 2022, exposing the country to global oil price fluctuations. The fiscal landscape is characterized by high public expenditures, notably on rising public sector wages and pensions, which consume a substantial portion of the national budget. Total Government revenues accounted for 38.8 per cent of GDP in 2022. The Government revenues for 2022 accounted for 161,697,436.7<sup>12</sup> Iraqi dinars. The Government GDP in 2022 accounted for 416,689,736.6 Iraqi dinars. After moderating in 2022, inflation has increased, driven by the depreciation of the Iraqi dinar, resulting in an increased cost of living.

Iraq's economy is actively seeking opportunities to enhance economic diversification and build greater resilience to global oil price fluctuations. The public sector accounts for 37.9% of total employment in 2021 (female 70.5%; male 33.7%). However, private businesses face some challenges including in accessing finance, to enable it in enterprise creation and economic diversification. While the agri-food sector has significant potential to contribute to job creation and private sector development, structural reforms and investments are needed to stimulate business investment environment - an effort to which the Iraqi government remains committed.

### ■ Economic Development (Prosperity)

Iraq's multifaceted challenges, as outlined above, are intertwined and exacerbated by the impacts of climate change — including rising temperatures, droughts, floods, dust storms, and climate-related epidemics — with 37,890 people recorded as being displaced by drought and water scarcity in 2023.<sup>13</sup>

While representing just 0.45 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, Iraq has one of the highest carbon intensities (emissions per GDP) compared to its peers, largely from its

However, the restoration and rehabilitation of cultural heritage sites is underway to ensure their preservation for future generations while providing livelihood opportunities and strengthening social cohesion. This contributes to preserving Iraq's historical and cultural identity, and the Iraqi government is committed to this effort.

The Government of Iraq recognizes the importance of increasing labor force participation across all segments of society. While the 2021 labor force participation rate stood at 39.5% (female 10.6%; male 68%), it is actively working to create more inclusive economic opportunities and reduce the overall unemployment rate of 13.5% (2024). This includes addressing policies and social norms to enhance women's full participation in the economy, promoting a more equitable division of family responsibilities, and facilitating access to affordable childcare facilities. This enhances women's integration into the labor market.

Recognizing the critical need to empower Iraq's youth, the government is focused on reducing youth unemployment, which was 35.8% in 2021 (female 62.1%; male 32.1%). Addressing informal employment, which affects 5.73 million people (44.8% of employed females; 69.5% of employed males), remains a priority. The agriculture sector, which contributes 5% to GDP, is seen as offering significant opportunities for job creation, improved food security, and creating sustainable livelihoods.<sup>14</sup>

oil and gas sectors.<sup>14</sup> Electricity remains almost exclusively generated from hydrocarbons, with renewables accounting for just five per cent of the total supply in 2022.<sup>15</sup> Despite the country's vast oil and gas reserves, inadequate access to electricity significantly impacts household well-being and economic development. As such, transitioning to renewable energy and promoting sustainable practices in agriculture and other sectors are critical towards ensuring long-term environmental resilience.

The signing by Iraq of the UN Water Convention in 2023, the first country in the Middle East to do so, represents a positive milestone in addressing water-related challenges in the country, s. However, water scarcity, quality, and security remain one of the most pressing issues facing the country, impacting availability for human consumption and economic development, particularly agriculture, as well as having devastating impacts on the environment and ecosystems. Surface water volumes have declined steeply over the last 30 years due to climate change and human-induced impacts. Decreasing rainfall is anticipated to contribute to a further 20 per cent reduction in

freshwater resources by 2050.<sup>16</sup> Ninety per cent of Iraq's rivers are polluted,<sup>17</sup> with six million cubic meters of untreated sewage being dumped into the environment and rivers daily.<sup>18</sup> The Mesopotamian Marshes in Southern Iraq — a UNESCO World Heritage Site — suffers from water scarcity, with disastrous consequences for its unique culture and biodiversity. The preservation of Iraq's unique natural heritage, including the marshes, is critical to ensuring the long-term viability of its ecosystems and supporting the livelihoods of communities that depend on these resources.

## 2.2 • Leave no one Behind

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are underpinned by the principle of leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first, without which the Goals cannot truly be attained. Reducing inequalities (SDG 10) will also require tackling the often-deep-rooted causes of vulnerability.

The Government of Iraq has made notable progress in the improvement of the country's institutional and frameworks towards the elimination of discrimination against **women and girls** and promoting women's empowerment, including the adoption of the National Action Plan on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, and the National Strategy on Violence against Women and Girls.

Iraq has a significant opportunity to build on its progress in promoting equality between men and women. To fully achieve SDG 5 and uphold its commitments under CEDAW, Iraq – like many other countries - faces a set of key challenges that, if addressed, can lead to transformative change.

Women, particularly those in rural areas, including internally displaced women, limited access to quality healthcare, psychosocial support, and essential services such as clean water and sanitation. Addressing these challenges requires targeted interventions to bridge gaps and ensure fair and equitable service delivery. While Iraq has adopted important policies in this regard, translating these frameworks into tangible improvements in the lives of women and girls necessitates strengthening

implementation mechanisms, improving coordination among stakeholders, and increasing funding to support women's economic empowerment. Strengthening legal frameworks, expanding support services for survivors of violence, and shifting societal attitudes through awareness campaigns and education are essential steps to protecting women and girls from all forms of violence.

The Iraqi government is making tangible efforts to advance policies that promote women's economic empowerment however challenges remain with regard to women accessing labor market. Policies that promote economic empowerment, equal pay "especially since the laws and policies adopted by the Iraqi government guarantee equal opportunities and equal wages between men and women" and protection of workers' rights, as well as the development of female leadership can help bridge the gap and increase women's inclusion across various sectors. Expanding psychological and social support, combating the stigma associated with mental health, and creating more inclusive environments will remain essential to improving the quality of life for women and girls. By addressing these challenges with a comprehensive and coordinated approach, Iraq has great potential to advance gender equality and create a more just, inclusive, and sustainable society, with no doubt in Iraq's ability to overcome and address these challenges.

With 60 per cent of the population under the age of 24, Iraqi **youth** hold significant potential to contribute towards the country's recovery and prosperity. However, young people have largely borne, resulting in high unemployment rates

<sup>11</sup> Rawabet Center for Research and Strategic Studies, Historical and Economic Crimes Committed by ISIS in Mosul, June, 25, 2017.

<sup>12</sup> 161,697,436.7 IQD is approximately 122,498.06 USD at an exchange rate of 1320 IQD per USD, as per the instructions of the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI).

<sup>13</sup> IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix.

<sup>14</sup> World Bank, Country Climate and Development Report: Iraq, November 2022.

<sup>15</sup> Reporting by the Ministry of Electricity of Iraq.

<sup>16</sup> World Bank, Country Climate and Development Report: Iraq, November 2022.

<sup>17</sup> UN Iraq, Briefing to the UN Security Council, SRSG Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, 18 May 2023.

<sup>18</sup> World Bank, Country Climate and Development Report: Iraq, November 2022.

and inadequate educational opportunities. Around 36.7 per cent of the youth population are not in education, employment, or training (female 52.3 per cent; male 22.1 per cent).<sup>19</sup> Efforts by the Government and private sector to align educational curriculums and skills building with potential and emerging labour markets is seen as a positive step in the economic empowerment of young people.

**Children** face many barriers to the progressive realization of their rights as defined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. While killing and maiming remaining the most verified violation with 236 verified cases.<sup>20</sup> While there has been a general trend toward a decrease in child rights violations, particularly against girls, children continue to be vulnerable to physical and psychological violence, neglect, and harmful practices such as child marriage and child labor.

Childcare legislation, policies, and frameworks in Iraq remain outdated, and the legal framework related to violence against women and girls and child protection has not yet reached international standards. Many children live in multidimensional poverty, and access to quality education and skill development remains a significant challenge, particularly for children with disabilities and those out of school, hindering their ability to fully participate in society. Moreover, negative behavioral and health patterns, along with prevailing social traditions, have contributed to rising obesity rates among children, low infant nutrition rates, and high adolescent pregnancy rates.<sup>21,22</sup>

Persons with disabilities may face additional difficulties which can affect their access to employment, education, healthcare, and social services. Physical and social barriers, including accessibility challenges and societal perceptions, can further limit their participation. Women and girls with disabilities remain more vulnerable to social isolation, while internally displaced persons (IDP) and returnees with disabilities face specific challenges that hinder their reintegration and stability, necessitating comprehensive responses to effectively address these challenges.

The 2014 Disability and Special Needs Law marks a significant step toward enhancing inclusivity and integrating this people with disabilities into society. Law number 38 (2013) amended by Law number 11 (2024); Law number 11 for Social Protection (2014); and Law number 37 for Labor (2015) all supports persons with disability. Iraq

commits to the international UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The major measures taken by the Government include National Policy for Empowering Persons with Disabilities (2024-2028) (which also deals with employment, education and health); as well as Directives from the Prime Minister in accordance to letter No. 3063/2436719 (treatment of Government employees who are persons with disabilities); Ministerial Order 174 and 1037 (2024) on the formation of the committee to prepare a national manual for special measures for persons with disabilities. However, challenges persist, particularly regarding the provision of accessible infrastructure and the guarantee of inclusive services, especially for children with disabilities. Despite limited data on the prevalence of disabilities, a 2016 survey revealed that a portion of children and adolescents, including those affected by difficult conditions, suffer from various disabilities, including mental health disorders. This highlights the need to improve data collection mechanisms to ensure more accurate and effective responses that address the needs of this group and promote their full integration into society.

It is emphasized here that Iraq continues to promote the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities through legislative reforms and initiatives aimed at improving their social and economic conditions. In this regard, the first amendment to Law No. 38 of 2024, known as the “Disability and Special Needs Rights Law,” was adopted, reflecting the government’s commitment to developing policies that support the rights of this group and ensure equal opportunities.

Regarding internally displaced persons, several measures taken by the Iraqi government have been highlighted. Part of these measures, among others, includes the establishment of the High Committee tasked with developing a comprehensive plan to address protracted displacement, aiming to facilitate the voluntary return of displaced persons and their reintegration into their original communities, while ensuring decisions are based on accurate information. In the post-ISIS attack phase, nearly five million internally displaced persons have returned to their original areas, while over one million people still reside in camps, informal sites, and host communities. In light of this reality, efforts are shifting from providing emergency assistance to adopting a sustainable development approach. The Iraqi government is focusing on finding long-term solutions for displaced persons by integrating them into social protection systems

and addressing the economic and social factors affecting their stability and reintegration into society, thereby enhancing their ability to achieve self-sufficiency and full participation in public life.



### Roadmap on Resolving Internal Displacement in Iraq

As one of the pilot countries selected under the *‘United Nations Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement’*, Iraq has made significant strides in implementing aspects of its recommendations. Structures to ensure Government leadership on durable solutions at governorate level are in place. The UN in Iraq has also been working with the Federal Government of Iraq to develop the *‘Roadmap Accelerating the Implementation of the National Plan to Resolve Displacement in Iraq’*.

The draft Roadmap identifies four commitment areas to place remaining IDPs on solution pathways, including 1) Access to safe housing; 2) Access to essential infrastructure; 3) Access to basic services; and 4) Enhancing stability of communities. These commitments align with various outcomes and workstreams outlined under the UN Cooperation Framework, through which the UN will coordinate and deliver its support towards achieving durable solutions to internal displacement in Iraq.



### UN Common Pledge 2.0 on Refugee Inclusion

In line with the progress made in support of refugee inclusion, the humanitarian response has been working towards a responsible transition away from a refugee coordination framework, towards a longer-term developmental approach that advances refugee inclusion in national systems, public services, and development processes to address remaining needs and to broaden refugee inclusion. In support of the Global Compact on Refugees, the UN Common Pledge 2.0 on Refugee Inclusion is a clear expression of the UNCT’s commitment to ensure that its analysis, policies, programmes, and plans — including the United Nations Cooperation Framework, are relevant to refugees, asylum seekers. The expected impact of the commitment is to ensure that refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons in Iraq have improved access to education, social safety nets, public services, healthcare, economic opportunities, and reduced risks of statelessness, thereby promoting their inclusion and well-being on par with host communities.

Due to the past humanitarian crises, a number of Iraqis, including IDPs, those at risk of statelessness, and many women and children, continue lack civil documentation which exacerbates their vulnerabilities, restricting their access to essential services, exercising freedom of movement, and participating in civic and political life. However, the Government has made significant progress in the issuance of documents for Iraqis without civil documentation, especially by simplifying procedures allowing Iraqis to apply for the Unified ID from anywhere in the country rather than just their area of origin, which contributes to enhancing their rights and ensuring their social and economic integration.

Iraqi government’s determination to achieve this, as it has taken significant measures to recognize and protect the rights of minorities. These include discussions of laws aimed at enhancing legal recognition, protection from discrimination, and ensuring the representation of minorities in governance processes, reflecting a clear commitment to justice and equality. In March 2021, the Iraqi Parliament adopted the Yazidi Survivors Law, marking a pivotal point in reference to the atrocities committed by terrorism against Yazidis and other minorities. This law provides a comprehensive framework for compensation and support for survivors of ISIS crimes, including financial aid, healthcare, and rehabilitation services, thereby

<sup>19</sup> International Labour Organization: Iraq Labour Force Survey 2021, July 2022.

<sup>20</sup> United Nations Security Council, Children and armed conflict in Iraq - Report of the Secretary-General (S/2024/247), April 2024.

<sup>21</sup> UNICEF Iraq, Survey to understand knowledge, attitudes, belief, behaviour and practices (KABP) of communities towards health nutrition WASH, children protection and education, 2024.

<sup>22</sup> Sulaiman, Saad, Al Ani, Mourge, Prevalence of obesity and physical activity among primary school children in Erbil city, Iraq (2020).

strengthening the recovery and reintegration process. The establishment of the Survivors Affairs Directorate has documented over 2,070 cases of survivors from Yazidi, Shabak, Turkmen, and Christian communities, enabling them to access compensation and various support services. The Iraqi government continues its commitment to addressing minority issues and promoting their rights through ongoing cooperation with local partners and international organizations, with the aim of supporting survivors of violence, fostering recovery within affected communities, and ensuring a more inclusive and just environment for all Iraqi components.

### 2.3 • Opportunities for Achieving the 2030 Agenda

While the current challenges should not be underestimated, Iraq possesses promising opportunities to harness its rich natural resources, and more importantly, its untapped human potential. The youth, with their diversity and vitality, form a key pillar in driving the necessary transformations that will contribute to accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. To ensure tangible progress in sustainable development, it is essential to identify those catalytic areas that can help accelerate the pace of progress and support national development strategies.

In its conclusions, the UN's 2023 Common Country Analysis (see section 3.1) identified four main thematic areas as fundamental pillars contributing to achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Iraq:

- Inclusive Social Development
- Sustainable Economic Development and Livelihoods
- Environmental Adaptation and Climate Change
- Good governance and Rule of Law. In addition, ensuring that everyone is included and no one is left behind is a key factor through which progress can be achieved in all these areas.

Achieving these opportunities requires the concerted efforts of all relevant stakeholders, including the government, private sector, labor unions, civil society, and international partners the partners the UN, in addition to allocating sufficient technical resources to support these initiatives, which contribute to the implementation of the framework document's programmes and projects within the development activity, focusing on areas where they have not been implemented. This will enable Iraq to make significant strides towards the SDGs and ensure a sustainable, prosperous, and peaceful future for all its people.

## 3. United Nations Support to the 2030 Agenda

### 3.1 • From a Common Country Analysis to Cooperation Framework Priorities

In preparation for developing of this Cooperation Framework, the United Nations in Iraq conducted a comprehensive and multidimensional analysis of the country's context and needs of the country against the framework of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. The resultant UN Common Country Analysis provided an essential analytical foundation to enable the UN system in Iraq, in collaboration with various stakeholders and partners, to identify potential catalytic and impactful areas of engagement through the new UN Cooperation Framework.

Under the leadership of the Minister of Planning and the UN Resident Coordinator, who plays a developmental role and with representation across Government ministries and departments and UN agencies, a dedicated Joint Technical Committee was established to ensure effective coordination and consultation across sectors throughout the duration of the UN Cooperation Framework development process. This was complemented by

sectoral-level sub-groups structured against the draft UN Cooperation Framework priority areas within which further technical-level elaboration was undertaken.

Wide-ranging consultations were held with various other stakeholders, including, but not limited to, civil society organizations, women, youth, and representatives of vulnerable and marginalized groups — including persons with disabilities, displacement affected populations, etc. — international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the international donor community, sub-national institutions and organizations, international financial institutions, private sector entities, and social partners, (see Annex V for more information on stakeholder consultations).

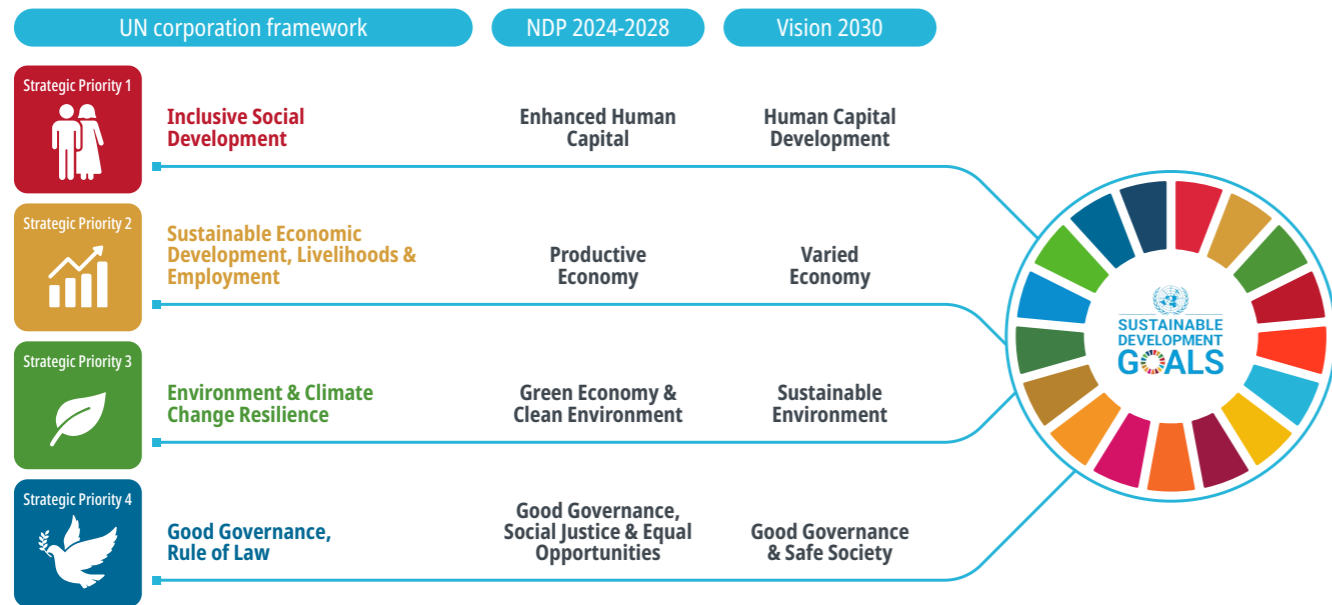
Cumulatively, this process resulted in the identification of four interconnected and mutually reinforcing Strategic Priorities against which to frame the UN Cooperation Framework, namely:

1. *Inclusive Social Development*
2. *Sustainable Economic Development, Livelihoods, and working areas*
3. *Environmental Adaption and Climate Change*
4. *Good Governance, and the rule of law*

As the United Nations Cooperation Framework represents a collective contribution from all UN agencies to support Iraq's pursuit of its national priorities, the process of setting priorities for the UN Framework was largely guided by the new National Development Plan 2024–2028, the National Vision for Sustainable Development 2030, and relevant

sectoral strategies. Accordingly, the above-mentioned strategic priorities are directly aligned with the pillars of these two national frameworks, ensuring maximum consistency between UN development plans and national plans.

Figure 2 Aligning the United Nations Framework for Cooperation with national priorities.



The Strategic Priorities additionally correspond to the 5Ps across all priorities — and further integrates the ‘Six Transitions’ and four ‘Engine Room Actions’ to accelerate progress towards the SDGs (see Figure 3).<sup>23</sup>

Figure 3 Contribution of Strategic Priorities to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Six Transformations



<sup>23</sup> Rooted in the SDGs, the ‘Six Transitions’ have been identified by the UN system globally as transformative entry points that can have catalytic and multiplier effects across the Goals and an outsized determinant impact for their achievement.

### 3.2 Theory of Change for the Cooperation Framework Priorities

Progressing towards the SDGs in Iraq requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach that fosters inclusive and equitable growth, equality between the sexes, environmental sustainability, increased resilience, good governance, and social cohesion, all of which are crucial for the country’s sustainable and peaceful development. The integrated nature of the UN Cooperation Framework’s Strategic Priorities highlights the multidimensional and transformational change required to accelerate Iraq’s progress towards sustainable development. As such, progress towards one priority area cannot be viewed in isolation, but as part of a complex web of systems and dynamics that can create cascading benefits if undertaken in a coordinated and complementary manner. It is also important to note that changes envisaged under the UN Cooperation Framework do not exist in a vacuum but look to build on the considerable work and progress already achieved by Government of Iraq and other stakeholders across a broad spectrum of areas.

**Inclusive Social Development:** to Ensure equitable and inclusive access to basic social services and social protection systems which are sufficiently funded, a comprehensive and multispectral, approach should be adopted that tackles the underlying causes of vulnerability. Strengthening governance and institutional capacities at all levels to deliver quality services to the population — particularly to women and youth live in vulnerable situation — will further strengthen the social contract between the Government and its population and foster greater social cohesion. Prioritizing equitable access to evidence-informed quality social services will also enhance the country’s human capital and equip the next generation of female and male young people with the necessary knowledge and skills to meet the demands of a more diversified and sustainable economy. Strengthened and adaptive social protection systems will increase the resilience of the groups live in vulnerable situation against life-cycle risks and help break the pattern of intergenerational poverty and food insecurity, while improving the availability of protection services can help mitigate and respond to abuse, neglect, and violence, particularly against women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities. Availability of adequate housing, protection of cultural heritage, improved community infrastructure, and accessible public services can further

foster inclusion and strengthen social fabrics. Effective provision of accessible and inclusive social services and social protection will necessitate the integration, modernization, and digitalization of Government information management and delivery systems, as well as the associated technical capacity strengthening required for their functioning.

**Economic Development, Livelihoods, and Employment:** Reducing Iraq’s dependency on oil is crucial for its long-term economic viability and in meeting its international environmental and climate change commitments. This will require strengthened economic governance capacities, frameworks, and policies that stimulate economic diversification and sustainable private sector-led growth that contributes to decent work, resilient livelihoods, and poverty reduction, and fosters a just transition towards sustainable and diversified growth. Creating an enabling environment for sustainable enterprise development and improving business development services can help to foster the creation, survival, and thriving of private sector enterprises, particularly youth and women-led green micro, small, and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs), in job-intensive economic growth sectors, including construction, technology and innovation, and tourism and cultural and creative industries. Notably, transformation of the agricultural and agri-business sector and strengthening agri-food systems will enhance food security, create green jobs, and foster sustainable development at both local and national levels. Ensuring an inclusive workforce that is equipped with the necessary competencies to meet the needs of these emerging sectors will require training and skills development opportunities through efficient educational and training institutions. Focusing on economic empowerment and skills development for unemployed women, youth, and vulnerable groups will contribute to inclusive and resilient growth, poverty reduction, and social stability.

**Environment and Climate Change Resilience:** Given Iraq’s exposure to the triple impacts to the planetary crisis (climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss) the theory of change in the United Nations Cooperation Framework, its Priorities and Strategic outcomes, should be viewed through a comprehensive perspective lens focusing on climate change mitigation and adaptation,

disaster risk reduction, pollution control, and biodiversity protection. In addressing these challenges, specific efforts will be required for Iraq to adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly on women and girls, tackle environmental degradation, and reduce and manage disaster risks. Strengthening institutional and community capacities, supporting young people as agents of change, increasing awareness, and development and enforcement of policy and regulatory frameworks in line with multilateral environmental and climate change commitments will help to improve environmental stewardship and increase resilience to climate change impacts and other shocks, including those that may result in displacement. Transition to renewable energy will help to mitigate Iraq's contribution towards global greenhouse gas emissions, reduce pollution, and improve access to clean and affordable energy, particularly for the most energy poor. Sustainable management of natural resources can help alleviate pressing environmental challenges such as water insecurity, land degradation, desertification, and biodiversity loss. Most critical is Iraq's water shortage crisis which will require a comprehensive and integrated approach to water resource management.

**Good Governance, Rule of Law:** Social stability, and inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance at all levels are a prerequisite for progress to be made against all UN Cooperation Framework priorities. Strengthening democratic institutions, ensuring the rule of law for

all, and combating corruption will help to build public trust, increase confidence in the country as an attractive investment prospect, and

Create an enabling environment to address the underlying causes of fragility. Adopting participatory governance approach that includes various stakeholders will ensure that Government-led development initiatives respond to the needs of the population. Effective governance will require strengthening institutional capacities — including the digitalization and expansion of e-governance — improving transparency and accountability strengthening legislative frameworks, and empowering institutions and systems for children and adults.

Overall, the UN Cooperation Framework will apply a humanitarian-development and stability approach that seeks to find durable solutions for protracted humanitarian needs and strengthen build resilience to shocks.

It is important to note that the path to achieving the SDGs lies in recognizing and leveraging the interconnections between these social, economic, environmental, and governance efforts. By harmonizing such approaches, the UN, with its government partners and other stakeholders, can help to advance sustainable development that benefits all segments of society and secures a peaceful and prosperous future for all people in Iraq.

Figure 5 UN Cooperation Framework theory of change overview

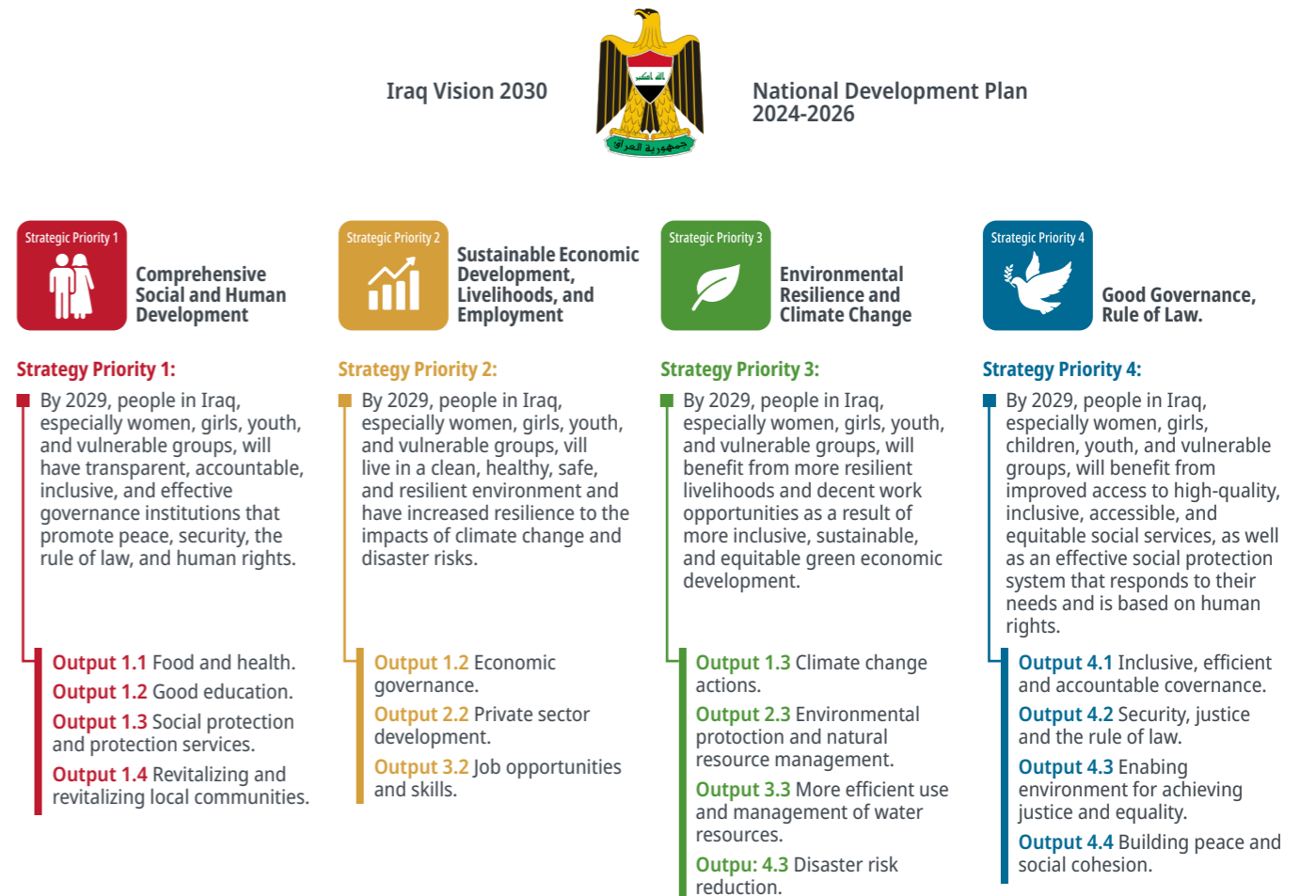
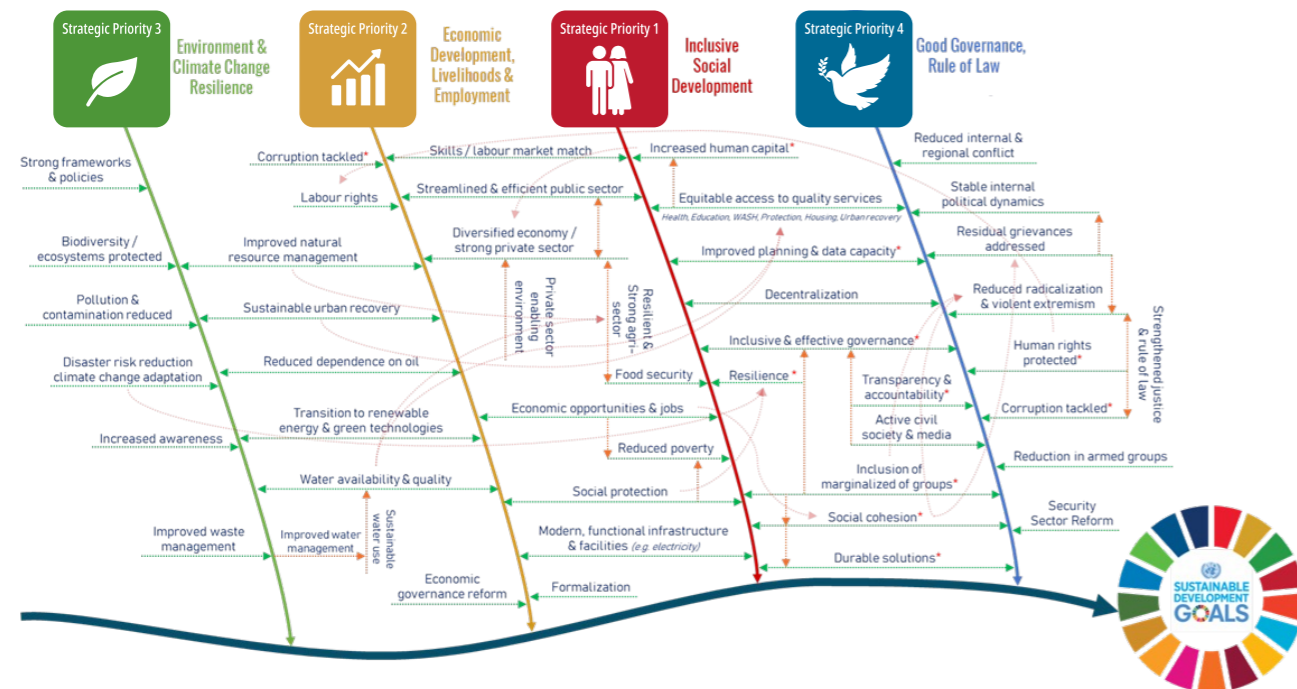


Figure 4 Changing paths supporting the theory of change.



### 3.3 Cooperation Framework Outcomes and Partnerships

#### Strategic Priority 1:

#### Inclusive Social Development

**Outcome 1: By 2029, people in Iraq, particularly women, girls, children, youth, and groups in vulnerable situations, benefit from improved access to high-quality, inclusive, accessible, and equitable social services and a functional, responsive, and rights social protection system.**

#### Theory of Change

**IF** primary healthcare providers which include healthcare unified Healthy approach, and nutrition services are equipped with the capacity, resources and policies to deliver quality health and accessible health and nutrition services, including sexual and reproductive health services; and

cultural and historic sites, enhance public infrastructure and services, and strengthen the urban fabric in urban and rural communities; and

**IF** evidence-based policies and programmes, facilitated by digital data systems are unified, across all social development sectors they will become integrated, mutually supportive and adequately funded:

**IF** the education governance system is strengthened to be able to formulate and implement evidence-based sector strategies and plans that expand equitable access to quality education at all levels, and teachers and education personnel have improved capacities, resources, and facilities to deliver quality education that caters to the needs of all learners, including those with disabilities; and

**THEN:** By 2029, people in Iraq, particularly women, girls, youth, and those most vulnerable and marginalized, will benefit from high-quality, inclusive, accessible, and equitable social services and a functional, responsive, and rights-based social protection system providing adequate protection throughout the life cycle, resulting in improved resilience, reduced multidimensional poverty and inequality, and enhanced social cohesion and that accelerates social and economic development and recovery.

**IF** comprehensive, sustainable, and equitable social protection systems anchored in national strategies and legislation that target the most vulnerable populations are developed and implemented; and

**IF** there are concerted efforts to increase availability of affordable and sustainable housing, protect and restore

Figure 6 SDGs and Six Transitions areas supported



### UN Outputs

#### Health and Nutrition Systems

The UN will demonstrate at-scale delivery of evidence-informed, quality essential health and nutrition interventions to promote behaviour change and address the drivers of morbidity and mortality, especially among the most vulnerable populations. Efforts will focus on strengthening the pillars of the health and nutrition system, including governance and leadership, quality of service delivery, health financing, and strategic generation, analysis, and use of data. This will include the scaling up of community health platforms and engaging communities in the planning and provision of health and nutritional services to ensure that they are culturally appropriate, context-specific, and responsive to the needs of the population. The UN will focus its support on health promotion, addressing social determinants of health, tackling non-communicable diseases, mental health, and women and girl's health, including sexual and reproductive health services. Recognizing the interlinkages and interdependencies between the wellbeing of people, animals, and the natural environment, the UN will support the adoption of 'One Health' system and approaches for human, animal, plant, and environmental health.

teaching and learning environments for all learners efforts in this regard will focus on the enhancement of a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and rights-based curriculum, technical assistance to school-based management, continuous professional development of teachers and administrators, and ensuring educational environments conducive to learning for boys and girls, including those with disabilities.

The UN will support the expansion of access to inclusive quality learning opportunities in formal, non-formal, and early childhood education through technical assistance to early childhood education, non-formal education for out-of-school children, alternative learning pathways, back-to-learning campaigns, and social behaviour change efforts, amongst others.

#### Social Protection

UN efforts will focus on enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of social protection systems in Iraq — including pension schemes, health insurance, social security, maternity and work injury cover, and unemployment benefits — through strengthening institutional capacities and governance mechanisms of social protection institutions at national and sub-national levels. This will be enabled through support to the development of national laws and policies, enhanced interoperability among management information systems, increased evidence generation capabilities, and improved financial management that translate into effective targeting and delivery of social protection services that are needs and vulnerability based, fit-for-context, risk-informed, shock-responsive, and food-security and nutrition sensitive.

The health management information system and surveillance system, including for zoonotic diseases, will be strengthened to enhance digital transformation, interoperability, and platform privacy for data collection, analysis, and timely use to enrich the process of decision-making. Additionally, supply chain systems will be reinforced to promote access to quality medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and innovations.

#### Quality Education

In supporting access to inclusive quality education for all learners, the UN will work to strengthen education system governance, including through technical assistance towards the operationalization of the Education Management Information System, evidence generation, educational planning, coordination, and monitoring, as well as enhancing the budgets and funding situations.

Efforts will focus on the progressive extension of social security coverage to informal workers — including domestic workers, contributing family members, and migrant workers, with a particular focus on women and youth — thereby facilitating their transition to formality. The UN will further advocate for the removal of barriers for groups in vulnerable situations that may not already be covered by the social protection system, including IDPs, refugees, and asylum seekers.

The UN will further demonstrate evidence-informed implementation of the Iraq National Education Strategy 2022–2031 to realize inclusive, quality, and accessible

UN will support strengthening the capacities of national institutions in the establishment of evidence-based,

inclusive, and accessible protection services. Evidence informed interventions for survivors of abuse, such as shelters, hotlines, and counselling centres, as well as establishment of functional case management and referral systems, will also be supported. This will require capacity building of key stakeholders — including healthcare providers, education staff, law enforcement, and social workers, amongst others — in the prevention, identification, and referral of protection cases.

. The UN will also advocate for and support the formulation of policies and legislation that tackle protection related issues, as well as the development of the third Iraq National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, which will include a strong protection emphasis.

### Sustainable Cities and Communities

UN assistance towards community recovery and revitalization will include strengthening institutional and community capacities to increase access to adequate, affordable, sustainable, and climate resilient housing and public services in both urban and rural settings, including in liberated areas and damaged areas of return, and those in informal sites hosting displaced and returnee populations including female-headed households and single women. Support will be provided for the recovery of historical cities and built and intangible heritage, particularly in terrorist attack affected areas, towards improved urban life, social cohesion, and tourism development.

The UN will strengthen Government capacities at national and local levels in urban planning and capital investment for sustainable cities and communities that improves public infrastructure, mobility, and access, provides safe public spaces, and stimulates inclusive economic development. Improved access to climate-resilient and safely managed water and sanitation services will be supported through the development of national and sub-national roadmaps, scaling up of water and wastewater management infrastructure, and building community confidence in service availability.

**Leave no one behind:** Interventions under this Strategic Priority will prioritize accessibility (including physical, social, and administrative) and responsiveness of services to the specific needs of groups in vulnerable situations, including children and young people, people with disabilities, displacement affected populations, isolated

communities, and areas vulnerable to climate change impacts, amongst others. In doing so, the UN will support the formulation of national and sub-national policies, strategies, and legislation so that those most vulnerable and marginalized are able to equitably benefit from social services. The UN will also work to reduce the barriers that women and girls face in accessing services, with a focus on groups of women and girls in vulnerable situations, including displaced populations, minority groups, and women-headed households and single women. Support will also be provided so that all Iraqis entitled to Iraqi citizenship have their national identity documents secured, and those without civil and housing, land, and property documentation — including IDPs, returnees, asylum seekers, and refugees — are able to access services, housing, and social protection schemes.

**Assumptions:** Progress towards the realization of the outcomes under this Strategic Priority is underpinned by the following assumptions:

1. Government adequate of as many national resources as possible allocated towards improving and expanding the delivery of inclusive and quality social services and social protection schemes without discrimination across all regions of the country and targeting those most at risk of marginalization.
2. Improved, effective, and systematized communication and collaboration across Government ministries and departments on areas of overlapping competencies and interest.
3. Commitment and allocation of resources towards development and implementation of interoperable/ cross-compatible management information systems and digitalization in support of improved data availability and access, increased efficiencies, and improved accessibility of services.

**UNCT Configuration:** The UN in Iraq, including resident and non-resident entities, will leverage its, capacities, expertise, assets, and convening role in the delivery of this Strategic Priority, namely: FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UN Women, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, WFP, and WHO.

**Partnerships:** Key partners within the Government of Iraq will include, but not be limited to, the Ministries of Agriculture; Construction, Housing, and Public

Municipalities; Culture; Education; Environment; Finance; Health; Higher Education and Scientific Research; Interior; Justice; Labour and Social Affairs; Migration and Displacement; Planning; and Youth and Sports. The UN will also partner with other governmental institutions including, but not limited to, the Council of Ministers' relevant authorities National Women's Machinery affiliated to the Council of Ministries; Child Welfare Commission; National Disabilities Commission; Prime Minister's Office

Advisory Commission; relevant Parliamentary Committees; and local governments, amongst others. International and national NGOs, donor partners, international financial institutions, civil society organizations and actors, civic and voluntary organizations, religious authorities, and social partners (including private sector actors, professional syndicates, employer's organizations, and trade unions, amongst others) will also be key partners under this priority.

## Strategic Priority 2:

### Sustainable Economic Development, Livelihoods & Employment

**Outcome 2: By 2029, people in Iraq, particularly women, girls, youth, and groups in vulnerable situations, benefit from more resilient livelihoods and decent work opportunities resulting from a more diversified, inclusive, sustainable, green, and equitable economic development.**

#### Theory of Change

**IF** economic governance institutions and stakeholders have increased capacities to facilitate the creation of an enabling policy and regulatory environment that stimulates private sector development, particularly for MSMEs, in emerging sustainable, green, and job-intensive economic growth sectors while upholding labour rights in accordance with international standards; and

**IF** MSMEs and entrepreneurs, particularly youth and women-led enterprises, have improved access to business development services, including finance, training, and capacity development, strengthened and integrated value chains, access to markets, modern and green technologies, etc.; and

**IF** technical and vocational education and training (TVET) governance is strengthened and education and training institutions and stakeholders have increased capacities

to provide quality skilling and on-the-job reskilling and upskilling opportunities corresponding to current and emerging labour market needs — particularly in priority growth sectors of the economy that contribute to the green transition — and linkages between job seekers and employers are strengthened:

**THEN:** By 2029, all people in Iraq, particularly women and youth, will be better able to benefit from a more inclusive, diversified, green, equitable, and sustainable economy and have access to decent work and resilient livelihood opportunities that contribute towards poverty reduction, sustainable development, and a just transition for all.

Figure 7 SDGs and Six Transitions areas supported



## UN Outputs

### Economic Governance

The UN will support the bolstering of inclusive economic governance structures, policy and regulatory frameworks, and capacities that foster private sector-led economic diversification and green growth. Technical assistance will be provided in the formulation of national plans, policies, and strategies based on social dialogue that enhance economic stability and resilience, increase transparency and accountability — including tackling corruption and other related impediments to growth — create decent employment, facilitates greater economic participation of women and youth, advances investment and trade strategies in line with World Trade Organization requirements, and supports digital transitions. Economic diversification efforts will focus on high-growth and job-intensive sectors, including climate-smart agriculture, food system transformation, construction and housing, and tourism. Assistance will also be provided for the greening of existing jobs and economic sectors.

The UN will work towards enhancement of the freedom of association and inclusive social dialogue to ensure access to decent work for all workers and job seekers in Iraq, as well as the development, modernization, and enforcement of employment and labour policies and legislation that align with international labour standards, including on child labour, occupational health and safety, and workplace inequalities.

### Private Sector Development

In its support to sustainable private sector development, the UN will build the capacities of business support organizations and incubator and accelerator programmes geared to MSMEs — with a focus on women and young entrepreneurs.

Capacity-building and technical assistance will focus on market access and assessments, trade-related technical support, creation and development of commercial alliances and market linkages, access to finance, business registration, infrastructure support, adoption of climate-smart practices and technologies, value chain development, and product development and quality standards, amongst others. Development of Government policies based on social dialogue, reforms, and institutional structures that

promote business incubation and acceleration centres for MSMEs will also be supported. High potential sectors, such as agriculture and construction, will be prioritized, while Iraq's rich and diverse cultural and natural heritage sites will be leveraged through development of sustainable and eco-tourism approaches.

### Employability and Skills

In improving the knowledge, skills, and capacities of Iraq's current and future workforce — particularly young men and women — that meet evolving labour market needs, the UN will support the Government and the employment sector to strengthen TVET and higher education governance and systems. This will include support for the expansion of centres of vocational excellence, development and implementation of competency-based TVET curricula, and planning, coordination, and monitoring, as well as budgeting and financing.

Public and private entities will be engaged to improve access to quality and inclusive life-long learning approaches of skilling, reskilling, and upskilling that focus on entrepreneurship, soft and life skills development, digital and financial literacy, apprenticeships, and job placements. The UN will also work with private sector actors on reskilling initiatives, on-the-job training, establishment of industry-driven training academies, and provision of job placement and apprenticeship opportunities across key economic sectors such as agriculture, construction, and tourism. The development and implementation of national employment policies will be supported, while employment services will be expanded and improved to connect employers, academic institutions, vocational training centres, and job seekers.

**Leave no one behind:** Throughout its work under this Strategic Priority, the UN will emphasize the integration of economically marginalized groups — including women, youth, IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers, and persons with disabilities. Technical assistance and capacity strengthening will be provided to design and promote skills enhancements and training opportunities, economic and livelihood support initiatives, and facilitate access to financial products for entrepreneurs and young professionals from marginalized groups. Refugee and host community-led MSMEs will be supported through

the conduct of labour market assessments and value chain analysis to identify and access key economic sectors and sub-sectors with potential for their integration. Partnerships will be fostered with development partners, private enterprises, and social partners to deliver skill development programmes tailored to the various needs of marginalized groups to improve their employment prospects.

**Assumptions:** Progress towards the realization of the outcomes under this Strategic Priority is predicated on the following major assumptions:

1. Allocation of adequate resources by the Government of Iraq towards economic diversification that reduces the dependence on the oil and gas sectors for public revenue generation and employment.
2. Concerted efforts are undertaken that meaningfully address the impediments to private sector-led growth, including undertaking the necessary reforms for World Trade Organization accession and tackling corruption that constrain national and international investment.
3. Commitment of the Government of Iraq and social partners on labour governance, fundamental principles and rights at work, social dialogue, and collective bargaining, as well as on the development and implementation of national employment policies and upholding of labour rights in line with national labour laws and international labour standards.

**UNCT Configuration:** The UN in Iraq, including resident and non-resident entities, will leverage its capacities, expertise, assets, and convening role in the delivery of this Strategic Priority, namely: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UN Women, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, and WFP.

**Partnerships:** Key partners within the Government of Iraq will include, but not be limited to, the Ministries of Agriculture; Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities; Education; Environment; Finance; Higher Education and Scientific Research; Industry and Minerals; Labour and Social Affairs; Migration and Displacement; Planning; Trade; Water Resources; and Youth and Sports. The UN will also partner with other governmental institutions including, but not limited to, the National Investment Commission; Council of Ministers' National Department of Iraqi Women; National Directorate of Iraqi Women; Central Bank of Iraq; and local governments. International and national financial institutions, donor partners, social partners (including private sector actors, professional syndicates, employer's organizations, and trade unions, amongst others), academic institutions (including TVET institutions), international and national NGOs, and women and youth-led organizations will also be essential partners under this priority.

Strategic Priority 3:

Environment & Climate Change Resilience

**Outcome 3: By 2029, people in Iraq, particularly women, girls, youth, and groups in vulnerable situations, live in a clean, healthy, safe, and resilient environment and have increased resilience to climate change impacts and disaster risks.**

Theory of Change

**IF** capacities on environmental governance are strengthened across all levels, from national, and local government to community level, based on an inclusive and equitable approach that aims to protect the rights of women, girls, youth, and groups in vulnerable situations; and

**IF** multilateral environmental and climate finance agreements are adopted, contextualised, and implemented, and environmental and climate change related legislation, policies, strategies, and frameworks are formulated and operationalized in a manner that maximises benefits and minimizes potential harm; and

**IF** all stakeholders are aware of the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and water scarcity, and are equipped with the appropriate policies, plans, resources, skills, and knowledge, and actively practice sustainable and positive behavioural actions; and

**IF** appropriate measures are undertaken to protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems, natural resources

are fairly and sustainably managed for the benefit of all, including groups in vulnerable situations, and efforts and resources are increased to tackle environmental pollution; and

**IF** disaster risk reduction and emergency response policies and action plans, particularly those that focus on nature-based solutions and promote stability, are developed and implemented in urban and rural areas, and institutions and communities are better prepared to prevent and respond to disaster risks:

**THEN:** Climate and environmental governance institutions and communities will be better able to manage and protect the environment, and effectively mitigate, adapt, and respond to climate change impacts and disaster risks in urban and rural settings, thereby enhancing the rights of all people in Iraq — particularly women, youth, and children and those groups most vulnerable and marginalized — to a water and food secure, clean, healthy, and safe environment.

Figure 8 SDGs and Six Transitions areas supported



UN Outputs

Action on Climate Change

UN support to climate action and environmental protection in Iraq — including through the joint UN-Government of Iraq ‘Environment and Climate Change Policy Advisory Group’ — will focus on the formulation, implementation, and enforcement of evidence-based national and sub-national policies, legislation, institutional frameworks, regulations, plans, investment strategies, and financial incentives. Assistance will focus on commitments such as Nationally Determined Contributions, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions, National Adaptation Plans, and Climate Investment Plan, amongst others. Locally led climate adaptation and anticipatory action plans will be promoted and awareness raised for vulnerable communities, while localized mapping and analysis of climate and environment linkages to stability will inform adaptation initiatives that promote and sustain stability. The UN will also support data collection on climate related migration and displacement.

Efforts to transition the energy sector towards a cleaner, affordable, and more sustainable future will be pursued through advocacy, capacity building, policy interventions, and technical support on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. Capacities of public and private partners will also be enhanced to implement climate

change mitigation and adaptation responses in various economic sectors, as well as their decarbonization.

Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Management

The UN will help to strengthen environmental governance in Iraq through capacity development of institutions, private sector actors, and communities on environmental protection and in the development, implementation, and enforcement of related policies and legislation. Data collection and analysis on the causal factors of environmental destruction will facilitate strengthened environmental decision making.

Support will focus on integrated, community-based, and locally led ecosystem conservation and restoration initiatives, while technical expertise will be provided on the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources, including agri-food systems, through the implementation of global best practices that prevent biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. The UN will engage with the Government, private sector, and other stakeholders to advance cleaner production and consumption patterns in support of a circular economy, as well as for exploring sustainable financing models for safe sanitation and waste management. Community-level awareness-raising on

### Climate, stability, and prosperity

Iraq current efforts to promote prosperity, justice, and sustainable development are taking place against a background of global climate change. In the last decades, the country has experienced recurrent drought, as well as flooding, extreme heatwaves, water insecurity, and increased risks of climate displacement. Through these impacts, climate change puts new stresses on economic, social, and political systems, There are multiple pathways through which climate change can interact with social stresses to compound existing vulnerabilities and create tensions. As such, multisector interventions are required to address the linkages between climate change, social stability to ensure that public institutions and governance systems can respond to and absorb the impacts of a changing climate. Consequently, the UN Cooperation Framework has been specifically designed to promote such integrated approaches, with climate and environmental considerations having been incorporated across all priority areas. Climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts include activates that enhance social stability increase social cohesion and strengthen governance. Livelihood and governance programmes are designed to contribute to successful climate change adaptation. This coordinated approach will provide an opportunity to stimulate collective action to address the challenges of climate change.

environmental protection will enhance local capacities and knowledge on the importance of tackling the causes and impacts environmental destruction.

#### Efficient Use and Management of Water Resources

UN assistance will apply a cross-sectoral and multi-partner approach coordinated through the UN's Water Task Force. Interventions will include technical support to the Government on water-related policy and legislative development and implementation, knowledge management, as well as strengthening national institutions on sustainable and equitable management of water resources. The UN will further endeavour to seek solutions around water management, while at local level, in close coordination with national institutions, support will be provided for the establishment of water management committees and water user associations that ensure the equitable distribution of water according to a rights-based approach inclusive of women and reduce tensions over access to water.

In tackling water resource challenges, the UN will work with relevant national entities in supporting the adoption of best-practices and innovative solutions and technologies across sectors — including the agricultural sector as a significant consumer of water resources — such as efficient water use and reuse solutions, rainwater harvesting, and reducing water losses, wastewater recycling, eliminating surface and groundwater contamination, including from poor sanitation, and scaling up of related pilot-projects. Local Community-led initiatives in cooperation with government will also raise awareness on the importance on water use efficiency and pollution prevention.

#### Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

Linked to interventions on climate action outlined above, the UN will provide institutional capacity development support for the development and implementation of a comprehensive range of evidence-based, multi-hazard disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and emergency response initiatives and tools at national level — including for droughts, floods, sand and dust storms, and human and animal disease outbreaks, amongst others. Development and implementation of policies and action plans that prioritize disaster risk reduction and management at national and local level in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and empower families in

vulnerable situations displaced by desertification and drought will also be supported.

The UN, in cooperation with Government agencies, will contribute to the establishment of an inclusive national multi-stakeholder disaster risk reduction platform, deployment of multi-hazard early warning systems, including at the community level, and harmonization of national disaster risk reduction information management systems. Adoption of innovative disaster risk reduction approaches that are sensitive to the rights and specific impacts of natural disasters on women and girls, including environmental and ecosystem-based solutions, and capacity development for vulnerable communities will also be promoted.

**Leave no one behind:** UN interventions will prioritize population groups at most risk of the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, water scarcity, and disaster risks. Assistance will be provided in the formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies and frameworks that reflect the specific needs and vulnerabilities of certain populations — including women and girls, children, youth, refugees, IDPs, and ethnic minority groups, such as Iraq's Marsh inhabitants — and increase their resilience to environmental and climate change impacts. Support will also focus on those whose lives and livelihoods are most at risk, including, but not limited to, those dependent on agriculture, animal husbandry, aquaculture, and fisheries, as well as those living in fragile ecosystems, such as the Mesopotamian Marshes. The UN, in cooperation with Government partners, and national entities will continue to monitor and respond to climate and disaster-induced internal displacements while working towards mitigating future displacement.

**Assumptions:** Progress towards the realization of the outcomes under this Strategic Priority is predicated on the following major assumptions:

1. Iraq maintains a stable environment conducive to the development, enforcement, and financing of strong environmental and climate policies, ensures sustainability of implementation, and continues to place high priority on the climate change agenda.
2. Active participation and inclusion of local communities in environment and climate-related

decision-making processes, including through the continuity of Government-led inclusive advisory platforms and initiatives, as well as grassroots engagement in policy design.

3. Iraq continues to be an engaged member of global environmental frameworks and mechanisms, and regional partnerships are deepened to effectively tackle transboundary environmental concerns.

4. Adequate as many national resources as possible are allocated and significant investments made in climate adaptation, environmental conservation, water management, and disaster risk reduction.

**UNCT Configuration:** The UN in Iraq, including resident and non-resident organizations, taking into account the work in accordance with the paragraphs contained in appendix No.2. entities, will leverage its capacities, expertise, assets, and convening role in the delivery of this Strategic Priority, namely: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UN Women, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, WFP, and WHO.

**Partnerships:** Key partners within the Government of Iraq will include, but not be limited to, the Ministries of Agriculture; Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities; Education; Electricity; Environment; Finance; Foreign Affairs; Health; Higher Education and Scientific Research; Housing, Construction, and Municipalities;; Industry and Minerals; Justice; Labour and Social Affairs; Migration and Displacement; Oil; Planning; Transport; Water Resources; and Youth and Sports. The UN will also partner with other governmental institutions including, but not limited to, relevant departments at the Council of Ministers'; National Disabilities Commission; Prime Minister's Office Advisory Commission; National Investment Commission; relevant Parliamentary Committees; Central Bank of Iraq; and local governments. Engagement with regional and international environmental platforms and mechanisms, academic institutions, national and international NGOs, civil society and community-based organizations, civic and voluntary organizations, international financial institutions, donor partners, private sector and social partners, traditional and non-traditional media for awareness raising, and water management related actors will also be essential.

## Strategic Priority 4:

### Good Governance, & Rule of Law

**Outcome 4: By 2029, people in Iraq, particularly women, girls, youth, and groups in vulnerable situations, benefit from transparent, accountable, inclusive, and effective governance institutions that enhance stability, and the rule of law.**

#### Theory of Change

**IF** all people in Iraq are fully able to participate in all aspects of governance — including through the selection of their own representatives through inclusive, democratic, and transparent means — and democratic space is protected and facilitates a strengthened, inclusive, and vibrant civil society to be active contributors to all aspects of governance; and

The United Nations system works together and leverages its collective mandates in an integrated manner to support the Government of Iraq, with the aim of promoting the coherence required under the United Nations reform framework.

**IF** some of governance institutions at all levels are reformed, modernized, resourced, and transparent and accountable – including through tackling corruption – to be more effective and responsive to the needs of all people in Iraq; and

**IF** some of national institutions have strengthened capacities and the necessary normative and regulatory

frameworks which ensure the stability and increase equitable access to improved justice delivery and effective and equitable judicial/administrative remedies; and

**IF** national legislation and policies are drafted and implemented in accordance with international norms and standards, and national institutions, media, and civil society are strengthened and enabled to monitor, report, advocate for, and uphold of all people in Iraq, including women, girls, and groups in vulnerable situations; and

**THEN:** By 2029, people in Iraq, including women and those groups most vulnerable and marginalized, are able to participate in and benefit from more transparent, accountable, inclusive, stable, representative, equitable, and effective governance that ensures accessible and people-centred law enforcement, justice, and relevant institutions and mechanisms. that promote and protect people and address emerging the threat of terrorism or violent extremism through meaningful peace and security dialogues.

Figure 9 SDGs and Six Transitions areas supported



## UN Outputs

### Inclusive, Effective, and Accountable Governance

In promoting more inclusive, effective, and accountable governance, including through improved local-governance and decentralized service delivery, the UN will support capacity development of state institutions to better meet the needs of all people in Iraq, including women and girls. Digital transformation and expansion of e-governance will improve public access to information and services, and national capacities will be built for evidence generation, including on collection of disaggregated statistical data — including age, sex, geographical, disability status, amongst others and as appropriate — as well as data management, analysis, and utilization, to ensure informed planning and policy development.

Capacity building and technical support will enable the formulation and implementation of rights- and evidence-based legislative and constitutional reforms, while institutional capacities will be strengthened on public financial management and accountability mechanisms. Government anti-corruption efforts in both the public and private sectors will be supported, including through adherence to the UN Convention against corruption and increasing institutional capacities.

Technical assistance will improve the planning, preparation, and conduct of credible, transparent, and inclusive electoral processes. Efforts will also be undertaken to increase the participation, representation, and catalytic role of women, youth, and civil society in decision-making,

### Justice and the Rule of Law

The UN will support the strengthening of justice sector institutions and related policy, operational, and legislative frameworks to ensure effective policy making, closer institutional coordination, increased capacities, and better alignment with Iraq's normative commitments and international standards and best practices. Assistance will be provided in the implementation of national strategies

Finally, greater multisectoral coordination and collaboration will be supported among security and justice sector institutions — together with relevant stakeholders — to ensure a cohesive approach to the administration of justice.

### Enabling Environment for Human Rights Protection

UN assistance to ensure the equal enjoyment of human rights will include advocacy and technical support for the review and formulation of legislation and policies that comply Iraq's international normative commitments and obligations, including those related to vulnerable children, asylum seekers and refugees, amongst others. Technical and capacity development support will be provided for institutions to promote accountability and protection for human rights — including a strong, independent Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles — and facilitation of Iraq's engagement with UN human rights mechanisms. Additionally, the UN will strengthen the capacities of civil society to advocate for their rights with duty bearers. The UN will further support improved access to housing, land, and property rights, and civil documentation,

### Promoting Community Cohesion and Peaceful Coexistence

The United Nations will work with the government to promote inclusive, people-centered dialogues aimed at addressing the risks of violent extremism and climate-induced migration, while fostering social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. Support will focus on capacity-building and engaging local communities and civil society, especially women, youth, and tribal and religious leaders. Initiatives that tackle tolerance, moderation, stability, will be promoted. The UN will work with the national governments to end protracted displacement and achieve durable solutions for all IDPs in camps throughout Iraq. The Durable Solutions Roadmap will be instrumentalized to assist the Government of Iraq in this aim.

**Leave no one behind:** UN interventions under Strategic Priority 4 will work to ensure that all aspects of governance are representative, responsive, and inclusive — including for women, youth, IDPs, people without civil documentation, persons with disabilities, victims of terrorism, and marginalized minorities, amongst others — and will endeavour to increase their participation in decision-making processes. The inclusion of such groups, as well as those in fragile areas, will also be essential to ensure that stability and social cohesion initiatives are sustainable. Support will work to reduce barriers to

justice services — and in ensuring those in contact with the law, notably children and young people, are treated in accordance with international standards. The strengthening of capacities of human rights institutions and civil society will also focus on upholding and protecting the rights of those least able to do so for themselves.

**Assumptions:** Progress towards the realization of the outcomes under this Strategic Priority is predicated on the following major assumptions:

1. The availability of factors and an enabling environment toward efforts for the systematic governance reform, including judicial and legal reforms, to improve capacities, responsiveness, effectiveness, and efficiency, including through the allocation of adequate national resources
2. Continued concerted efforts and commitment towards improving transparency, accountability — including through undertaking comprehensive measures to tackle corruption —, and inclusion, particularly of persons with disability and marginalized groups.

**UNCT Configuration:** The UN in Iraq, including resident and non-resident entities, will leverage its, capacities, expertise, assets, and convening role in the delivery of this Strategic Priority, namely: FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMAS, UNOCT, UNOPS, UNODC, and WFP.

**Partnerships:** Key partners within the Government of Iraq will include, but not be limited to, the Ministries of Communications; Environment; Foreign Affairs, Justice; Labour and Social Affairs; Migration and Displacement; Planning; Office of the Prime Minister. The UN will also partner with other governmental institutions including, but not limited to, the Cabinet of Ministers Secretariat; Commission of Integrity; Council of Representatives; Independent High Electoral Commission; Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights; National Committees to Counter Hate Speech and Prevent Violent Extremism; Council of Minister's National Department of Iraqi Women; Parliamentary Committees on Human Rights and Women and Children; the State Council; Supreme Board of Audit;. The UN will also engage with justice institutions, including the Supreme Judiciary Council, and other relevant stakeholders and donors

## 4. Cooperation Framework Implementation Plan

### 4.1 Cooperation Framework Governance

Underpinned by the principle of partnership and collaboration, strategic oversight and coordination of UN Cooperation Framework implementation will be undertaken through a UN-Government **Joint Steering Committee** co-led by the Ministry of Planning on behalf of the Government of Iraq and the UN Resident Coordinator representing the UN system in Iraq. Joint Steering Committee meetings should be convened at least once per year, or more regularly as necessary, to assess progress on UN Cooperation Framework implementation based on joint workplans and annual reports, and to determine any need for potential strategic realignment (see section 5.3 for further information).

Four Results Groups established per priority area will serve as the main instruments for the implementation of the UN Cooperation Framework. Sector level coordination between the Government of Iraq and UN entities, as well

as other stakeholders, will take place within Government-led, multistakeholder, sector-specific technical working groups.

The UN Cooperation Framework will be nationally executed under the overall coordination of the Ministry of Planning. Government coordinating authorities for specific UN system agency programmes are noted in Annex I list the government authorities responsible for coordinating the programmes of specific UN system agencies. Programme activities will be implemented by government ministries, NGOs, INGOs, and UN system agencies. Finally, cash assistance for travel, salaries, honoraria and other costs will be determined at rates commensurate with those applicable in the country, but not exceeding those applicable in the UN system (as specified in ICSC circulars), and will be included in the cost of programmes and project submitted to the government for development approval.

### 4.2 Cooperation Framework Management Structure

To ensure the effective operationalization of the UN Cooperation Framework, the UN system in Iraq will institute the necessary internal coordination and implementation mechanisms in accordance with UN Cooperation Framework strategic priorities and outcomes.

Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and comprised of the heads of UN entities operating in Iraq, the **UN Country Team** (UNCT) provides strategic guidance for translating the priorities and outcomes of the UN Cooperation Framework into implementable programmes and actions. These will be developed in consultation with the relevant Iraqi authorities and approved by the steering committee as Joint Work Plans under each outcome area. UN entities comprising the UNCT will be responsible

for aligning their respective country-level planning and programming instruments with the UN Cooperation Framework and reporting which will be shared with the Ministry of Planning for periodic review against their respective contributions to collective objectives. Provided that these programs are implemented in areas where no projects have been carried out.

Any addition or modification to the work of UN agencies must be subject to prior approval by the Iraqi government, and no projects or programs should be initiated in Iraq by the United Nations without the approval of the Iraqi side.

The **Programme Management Team** (PMT), as a subsidiary body of the UNCT, and comprised of deputy

heads of entity or senior programme management personnel, will ensure coordination and synergies among the four results groups under the UN Cooperation Framework implementation. The PMT keeps the UNCT informed on the status of implementation and provides strategic advisory support and recommendations, as necessary.

Structured against its Strategic Priorities, **Results Groups** are responsible for the technical level operationalization of the UN Cooperation Framework. Under the oversight of UNCT and the Joint Steering Committee, Results Groups, with the participation of Government partners, undertake thematic coordination in their respective focus areas, assess programmatic gaps, develop programmatic interventions — including joint programmes — based on jointly identified needs, formulate joint workplans, and collectively report on progress on UN Cooperation Framework implementation through annual UN Country Results Reports (see section 5.3 for further information).

The **Data, Monitoring, and Evaluation (DM&E) Working Group** provides technical advisory support to the PMT and Results Groups regarding data quality assurance, results planning, and ongoing monitoring and reporting of results against the UN Cooperation Framework and its joint workplans and sharing it with the government partner (Ministry of Planning). The DM&E Working Group also endeavours to coordinate monitoring and evaluation activities and initiatives across the UN system to reduce duplication and transaction costs (see Chapter 5 for further information on the duties of the DM&E Working Group).

While reporting to the UNCT, the Adolescents and Youth, and Sustainable Development Goal 5, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities support the UN system in promoting and coordinating collective efforts to empower women, girls, youth, and persons with disabilities through the United Nations Cooperation Framework. The Durable Solutions Working Group, led by the UN Resident Coordinator, remains the primary platform through which international partners ensure information sharing, strategic coherence, joint action, and advocacy for durable solutions in Iraq across humanitarian and development actors. The UN Steering Committee on the Implementation of the Global Framework for the Return of Iraqi Citizens from Northeast Syria coordinates relevant UN support and facilitates collaboration and coordination within the UN system and with the Government of Iraq. The UN Water

Taskforce provides a mechanism through which the UN delivers coordinated and integrated support to national counterparts on water-related issues.

The internal **SDG-5 Working Group** will coordinate activities related to the application of global norms and corporate policies to ensure equality and justice between men, women. Furthermore, the **OMT** under the supervision of the United Nations Country Team, work on enhancing the efficiency of the Business Operations Unit, developing capacities, and increasing the cost-effectiveness of implementing United Nations activities in support of the United Nations Cooperation Framework, through the Business Operations Strategy 2.0 (see section 6.4 for more information on the Business Operations Strategy).

The **UN Water Task Force** provides a mechanism through which the UN provides coordinated and integrated support to national stakeholders on water related issues.

Under the authority of the UNCT, the **Operations Management Team** (OMT) will continue to improve operational coherence, efficiencies, and cost effectiveness of the UN's delivery in support of the UN Cooperation Framework through its common Business Operation Strategy 2.0 (see section 4.6 for further information on the Business Operations Strategy).

The **Strategic Communications Group** coordinates joint communications initiatives pertaining to the UN's collective activities and achievements towards the realization of UN Cooperation Framework priorities, including through the UNCT website and related social media platforms, as well as through those of individual UN entities.

The **Office of the UN Resident Coordinator** provides overall coordination support and guidance to all UN interagency mechanisms and facilitates UN system engagement with external multi-stakeholder coordination bodies. The Office further enables non-resident UN entities to participate in UN interagency coordination mechanisms and processes for the implementation of the UN Cooperation Framework.

### 4.3 • Resourcing the Cooperation Framework

To effectively deliver on its collective commitments through the UN Cooperation Framework, the UN in Iraq will need to assess the financial and other resources required to translate its ambitions into implementable activities and actions. As such, the UN in Iraq will endeavour to increase joint resource mobilization, financing, and programming as part of its efforts to improve internal coherence and cost effectiveness.

As part of the development process for this document, the UN formulated a comprehensive Funding Framework which assesses the amount, type, source, duration, and sequence of financial resources that are required, available, and projected to be available, as well as those to be mobilized, to deliver on the outcomes and outputs of the UN Cooperation Framework. Updated periodically, the Funding Framework will provide an effective tool for tracking financial needs across both UN system entities and UN Cooperation Framework priorities.

The UN Cooperation Framework will be supported through the establishment of a **“partnership Fund”** with an emphasis on multi-agency joint programming to increase programmatic coherence and impact. A One Fund Steering Committee will be established to oversee prioritization and approval of projects for funding. In addition to continued mobilization of resources from international donor partners and others, the UN will strengthen its engagement with the Government of Iraq to help target and leverage some of its resources in support of UN Cooperation Framework outcomes and the SDGs.

In operationalizing the four **‘engine room’**<sup>24</sup> actions in support of the Six Transitions, the UN Resident Coordinator and the UNCT will facilitate the identification and development of **pipelines** of bankable and market-ready projects with participation of both public and private sectors, including by providing access to world-class expertise. To enable the delivery of such projects, the UN Resident Coordinator and the UNCT will convene all relevant actors to attract the needed financing from all sources to develop the **‘deal room’** — a financing mix with innovative instruments — for each of the Six Transitions in support of UN Cooperation Framework.

To ensure effective coordination and collaboration, and

to reduce competition over limited donor funding, the UN will develop a **joint resource mobilization strategy** for the UN Cooperation Framework. In accordance with the Management and Accountability Framework of the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System,<sup>25</sup> the UN Resident Coordinator will support joint resource mobilization initiatives while UN entities will keep the UN Resident Coordinator informed of their resource mobilization efforts.

The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the UN Cooperation Framework, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system entities.

Additional support may include access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies’ country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN specialized agencies, funds, and programmes. The UN system agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN system agencies’ funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the UN Cooperation Framework. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the workplans and project documents. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN entities, funds not earmarked by donors to UN agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

The Government will support the UN system agencies’ efforts to raise funds required to meet the needs of this UN Cooperation Framework and will cooperate with the UN system agencies including: encouraging potential donor Governments to make available to the UN system agencies

the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme; endorsing the UN system agencies’ efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector both internationally and in

Iraq; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Iraq to support this programme which will be tax exempt for the Donor, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

### 4.4 • Derivation of UN Country Programming Instruments from the Cooperation Framework

In accordance with the requirements under the UN development system reform agenda, resident and non-resident UN entities implementing in Iraq will derive their respective country planning and programming instruments directly from the UN Cooperation Framework. This includes the verbatim integration of UN Cooperation Framework outcomes into their documents. Additionally, entity specific outputs will support the achievement of the high-level, multi-year, and multi-Agency outputs of the UN Cooperation Framework.

The UN Resident Coordinator will evaluate UN entity country programming instruments to validate their

alignment with the UN Cooperation Framework. UN entities required to submit programme documents to their governing bodies will solicit UN Resident Coordinator review and endorsement prior to submission. To ensure maximum coherence and complementarity across the UN’s planning and programming landscape in Iraq, UN entities, to the extent possible, will also endeavour to align the timelines of their country programming instruments with that of the UN Cooperation Framework.

### 4.5 • Joint Workplans

The assessment will ensure accountability, support learning and guide decisions related to the design of the subsequent UN cooperation framework.

The UN Cooperation Framework will be made operational through the development of joint workplans,<sup>26</sup> which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN entities and each implementing partner as necessary on the use of resources. To the extent possible the UN system agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed UN Cooperation Framework and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the UN Cooperation Framework and joint or agency-specific work plans and / or project documents.<sup>27</sup>

All resident and non-resident UN entities implementing in Iraq will contribute to the development of multi-agency output-level joint workplans through the Results Groups in conjunction with other relevant

(where possible and appropriate, UN system entities will coordinate their programme framework evaluation activities to contribute to the UNCF evaluation process and reduce transaction costs in this process)

UN and government coordination mechanisms in consultation with line ministries and the Ministry of Planning. Workplans will be collated and reviewed in consultation with relevant Government partners and other external stakeholders, including through appropriate sectoral coordination mechanisms. Joint workplans will be reviewed, maintained, and updated on a periodic basis by the Results Groups to ensure they respond to the

<sup>24</sup> UNCTs and UN Resident Coordinators will enable and deliver four ‘engine room’ actions at the country level that 1) Drive the shifts across policy and regulatory frameworks, going beyond the standard sectoral approaches; 2) Facilitate the identification and development of pipelines of bankable and market-ready national projects with participation of both public and private sectors, including by providing access to world-class expertise; 3) Convene all relevant actors to attract the needed financing from all sources to help develop the ‘deal room’ – a financing mix with innovative instruments – for each of the transitions; and 4) Commit to capacity-building at scale to support public institutions and civil society in this process, ensuring a steady increase in capacities over time to reinforce and sustain these investments.

<sup>25</sup> UN Sustainable Development Group, Management and Accountability Framework of the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System, 15 September 2021.

<sup>26</sup> As per the UN Development Group Standard Operating Procedures for countries adopting the “Delivering as One” approach.

<sup>27</sup> In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Cooperating Agency directly responsible for the Government’s participation in each UNDP-assisted workplan. The reference to “Implementing Partner(s)” shall mean “Executing Agency(s)” as used in the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a workplan, a Principal Implementing Partner will be identified who will have responsibility for convening, coordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the workplan to ensure that inputs are provided and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the workplan.

evolving country context and needs, including through the annual performance review process with the Joint Steering Committee. Joint workplans will be reflected within the online UNINFO platform to facilitate increased transparency and accountability, as well as collective monitoring and reporting against UN Cooperation Framework commitments (see chapter 5 for more information).

#### 4.6 • Business Operations Strategy in support of the Cooperation Framework

The UN Iraq Business Operations Strategy 2.0 (BOS 2.0) provides the UNCT and OMT with a guiding framework to elaborate strategic and cost-effective initiatives for linking business operations with programmatic needs and requirements under the UN Cooperation Framework. This will enable the UN system to capitalize on the collective resources, operational capacities, and experiences of all UN entities while consolidating common service provision to improve effectiveness and cost-efficiency.

Underpinned by the principles of mutual recognition, client satisfaction, and cost effectiveness, the BOS 2.0 aims to reduce duplication, leverage the common bargaining power of the UN, maximize economies of scale, and reduce transaction costs across its common service lines. These include administration, human resources, premises and facilities, finance services, information and communication technology, logistics, and procurement.

## 5. CCA Update and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan

### 5.1 • Updating the UN Common Country Analysis

Based on the revised guidance emanating from the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System Reform on the new generation of UN Cooperation Frameworks, CCAs are no longer a once in a programme cycle exercise, but an ongoing process to ensure that UN interventions remain relevant to evolving needs and circumstances. As such, the CCA will be revised on an annual basis to update existing evidence relying on official data and where government data does not exist on other reliable third party data to reflect the changes in context and dynamics in the country to ensure that UN programmatic responses remain risk informed, appropriate, relevant, and effective. All resident and non-resident UN entities working in Iraq will support CCA review processes.

As necessary, additional updates will be undertaken in the event of significant changes in the country context and operational environment that would require the UN system to make more substantive adjustments to its priority areas and programmatic interventions. The updated CCA will be utilized in the annual UN Cooperation Framework review process in collaboration with the government side to inform any necessary revisions to the outcomes, outputs, and envisaged programmatic responses (see section 5.3 for further information on the annual performance review).

### 5.2 • Monitoring Implementation of Joint Workplans

The integrated and adaptive multi-year Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) plan annexed to this UN Cooperation Framework (see Annex IV) outlines the joint monitoring and evaluation activities planned by the UN to strengthen its results-based management through collective and coordinated monitoring of progress towards delivery of UN Cooperation Framework results and the SDGs. The plan includes strategies for disaggregated data collection, joint monitoring, and annual reviews. Progress on UN Cooperation Framework implementation will be reviewed annually, including through joint periodic programme reviews and reporting through the UNINFO platform. Particular attention will be paid to assessing the results of interventions on women and girls in accordance

with the UNCT System-wide Action Plan on SDG5, as well as vulnerable and marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, through disaggregated reporting against outcome and output indicators.

To better facilitate evidence-based policy and programme development by the Government, UN, and other stakeholders, the MEL plan prioritizes the strengthening of national statistical and monitoring and evaluation capacities to better assess and report against progress towards the SDGs. Accordingly, the UN will adopt a system building approach to strengthening capacities and practices on data collection, analysis, and use by national authorities and other partners as necessary.

### 5.3 • Annual Performance Review and Country Results Reporting

Transparency and accountability for the UN system's delivery in support of the UN Cooperation Framework will be ensured through an annual performance review process in conjunction with the Joint Steering Committee.

Through the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN in Iraq will produce an annual UN Country Results Report, no later than three months following the end of the annual implementation period, which will report on progress against UN joint workplans and the UN Cooperation Framework results framework. The Results Report will highlight the UN's collective interventions in support of UN Cooperation Framework outcomes, as well as achievements, risks and challenges, opportunities, lessons learned, best practices, and key focus areas for the subsequent year of implementation.

All resident and non-resident UN entities implementing in Iraq will contribute to the completion of the Results Report. To reduce duplication and transaction costs, UN entities will endeavour to align their annual reporting cycles to that of the UN Cooperation Framework so agency specific reports can be utilized in the compilation of the

Results Report. The Results Report will draw from reporting against output-level joint workplans in UNINFO. Where relevant and appropriate, the Results Report will utilize national sectoral reports and statistical data to help assess progress against thematic areas of UN programming over the reporting period.

The Results Report will be shared with and presented to national counterparts through the Joint Steering Committee as part of the annual review process. Based on an assessment of the findings captured within the Results Report and an updated analysis through the CCA, the Joint Steering Committee will determine whether amendments are required to the theories of change, priorities, outcomes, and outputs of the UN Cooperation Framework to ensure that it remains relevant to evolving context and needs.

In addition to Government partners, the Results Report will be disseminated to other relevant national stakeholders and made publicly available online on the UNCT Iraq website and through the UN's various social media platforms. The Results Report will also be utilized to inform joint fundraising initiatives.

framework evaluation activities to contribute to the UN Cooperation Framework evaluation process and reduce transaction costs in the process. To the extent possible, stakeholder consultations for UN Cooperation Framework and UN entity specific evaluations will be coordinated and, where appropriate, combined to mitigate duplication and consultation fatigue amongst partners.

The findings, conclusions, recommendations, and lessons learned from the final UN Cooperation Framework evaluation, as well as those of UN entity specific evaluations, will be key to informing the development of a subsequent UN Cooperation Framework upon the expiry of this document.

### 5.4 • Evaluation Plan

In accordance with requirements and the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning plan for the UN Cooperation Framework (see Annex IV), the Government and the UN will jointly commission an independent and impartial external final evaluation of the UN Cooperation Framework in the penultimate year of implementation. Undertaken in accordance with the UN Development Coordination Office and UN Evaluation Group's guidelines for UN Cooperation Framework evaluations,<sup>28</sup> the evaluation will ensure accountability, support learning, and inform decisions regarding the design of the subsequent UN Cooperation Framework. The evaluation will systematically assess the contributions of the UN Cooperation Framework by focusing on achieved development results, as well as internal and external gaps and overlaps in the implementation of the SDGs.

Under the oversight of the PMT, the Data, Monitoring, and Evaluation (DM&E) Working Group will develop a term of reference for the final evaluation specifying the scope of the evaluation in accordance with relevant norms and standards for such evaluation processes, including those pertaining to human rights, disability inclusion, and SDG5 approaches. The DM&E Working Group will review evaluation deliverables to ensure that it meets the necessary requirements and standards. Coordination with the Government of Iraq on the final evaluation process will be undertaken through an Evaluation Steering Committee comprising representatives from the UN and Government of Iraq through the Ministry of Planning.

Where possible and appropriate, UN system entities will coordinate and sequence their respective programmatic

<sup>28</sup> UNEG and DCO, Guidelines for the Evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, September 2021.

# ANNEX I UN Cooperation Framework Results Matrix

## Strategic Priority 1:

### Inclusive Social Development

**Outcome 1: By 2029, people in Iraq, particularly women, girls, children, youth, and groups in vulnerable situations, benefit from improved access to high-quality, inclusive, accessible, and equitable social services and a functional, responsive, and rights-based social protection system.**

#### UN Partners:

FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UN Women, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, WFP, and WHO.

#### Government Partner:

Ministries of Agriculture; Construction, Housing, and Public Municipalities; Culture; Education; Environment; Finance; Health; Higher Education and Scientific Research; Interior; Justice; Labour and Social Affairs; Migration and Displacement; Planning; Youth and Sports; Council of Ministers' National Department of Iraqi Women; National Directorate of Iraqi Women; Child Welfare Commission; National Disabilities Commission; Prime Minister's Office Advisory Commission; relevant Parliamentary Committees; and local governments.<sup>29</sup>

#### Other Partner:

International and national NGOs, donor partners, international financial institutions, civil society organizations and actors, civic and voluntary organizations, religious authorities, and social partners (including private sector actors, professional syndicates, employer's organizations, and trade unions, amongst others).

#### Related SDG Targets:

- Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere (Targets 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4);
- Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (Targets 2.1, 2.2);
- Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (Targets 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.c, 3.d);
- Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (Targets 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.a, 4.c);
- Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Targets 5.2, 5.3, 5.6);
- Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (Targets 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.a, 6.b);
- Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries (Targets 10.2, 10.4);
- Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Targets 11.1, 11.3, 11.4, 11.6, 11.7, 11.a, 11.b);
- Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (Target 16.9);
- Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (Targets 17.14, 17.15, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, 17.19).

#### Related 'Six Transitions':

- 1) Food systems;
- 2) Digital divide and connectivity;
- 3) Education systems;
- 4) Social protection and decent job creation; and
- 5) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

#### Related NDP Priorities:

- Improving Human Capital and Building Capabilities
- Spatial Development that Enhances Comparative Advantage and Achieves Rural Development
- Digital Transformation and Systems Automation

#### Thematic Area: Health and Nutrition Systems

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>1.1.a:</b> Coverage of essential health services (UHC Service Coverage Index score) (SDG indicator 3.8.1) <i>Reporting focal point(s): WHO</i>	Statistic (56%) is from CSOGIS	75/100	CSOGIS
<b>1.1.b:</b> Neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) (SDG indicator 3.2.2)	13% CSOGIS	<12	CSOGIS
<b>1.1.c:</b> Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (SDG indicator 3.7.1) <i>Reporting focal point: UNFPA</i>	73.6% in 2021	60%	CSOGIS- The 2021 Integrated survey of Women, Social and Health conditions in Iraq
<b>1.1.d:</b> Proportion of children aged 6-23 months who are fed a minimum diverse diet. (Proxy for SDG indicator 2.1.1) <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNICEF</i>	45% (2022)	55%	UNICEF MICs

#### Thematic Area: Quality Education

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>1.2.a:</b> Percentage of children attending an early childhood education programme, or primary education (adjusted net attendance ratio), who are one year younger than the official primary school entry age at the beginning of the school year (Proxy for SDG indicator 4.2.2)	It is preferable to adopt the Sustainable Development Index: 8.0 overall, 7.7 for males, 8.3 for females. (The year was not specified by the Human Development Department.)		MoE
<b>1.2.b:</b> Proportion of children in grade 4 achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics and reading, (disaggregated by sex, age, disability status and governorate) (Proxy for SDG indicator 4.1.1) <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNICEF</i>	Third grade: 91.5% Sixth grade: 73.9% Third intermediate (ninth grade): 69.2%		Ministry of Education – Data for the Year 2021–2022 Level of Proficiency in Mathematics and Reading
<b>1.2.c:</b> Percentage of primary school teachers receiving Continuing institutional vocational development (In-Service Training) (Proxy for SDG indicator 4.c.1)	24%		Ministry of Education – Data for the Year 2021–2022 Percentage of Teachers Who Have Met the Minimum Required Qualifications (In-Service Training)

<sup>29</sup> Kurdistan Regional Government partners under this Strategic Priority will include, but not be limited to the Ministries of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research; Labour and Social Affairs; Health; Planning; Interior; Peshmerga Affairs; Trade and Industry; Culture and Youth; as well as the High Council for Women and Development; General Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women; Directorate of Family and Child Protection Against Domestic Violence; Kurdistan Regional Parliament; and Department of Information Technology.

**Thematic Area: Social Protection**

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>1.3.a:</b> Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural) (SDG indicator 1.1.1) Reporting focal point(s): UNFPA	17.5% (2024)	13%	Ministry of Planning /CSOGIS
<b>1.3.b:</b> Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions (SDG indicator 1.1.2) Reporting focal point(s): UNDP	TBD Data collection currently ongoing with Central Statistics Office, UNDP, and Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI). UNDP to provide baseline and target once available	TBD	National Multidimensional Poverty Index, Ministry of Planning / CSOGIS
<b>1.3.c:</b> Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (SDG indicator 1.3.1) Reporting focal point(s): ILO, UNHCR	Total: 41.77% (2022) (a) Persons with severe disabilities collecting disability social protection benefits: 31.9% (male 33.1%, female 30.8%) (b) Vulnerable people covered by social assistance: 28.9% (2022) (c) Population affiliated to a social health protection scheme: 19.2% (2019) (d) Proportion of vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers covered by social protection systems: 2.21% (April 2024)	Total: 45% (a) 39% (b) 36% (c) 25% (d) 93%	ILO ILO on social health protection UNHCR on refugee related coverage
<b>1.3.d:</b> Public social protection expenditure on (a) social protection and (b) social healthcare as a proportion of GDP (Proxy for SDG Indicator 8.b.1) Reporting focal point(s): ILO	(a) 5.2% 9.6%		CSOGIS

**Thematic Area: has been integrated with social protection**

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>1.4.a:</b> Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18 (SDG indicator 5.3.1) Reporting focal point(s): UNICEF, UNFPA	(a) 25% [under 18 yrs] (b) 5.2% [under 15 yrs] (2021)	(a) 23% (b) 4%	MICS UNFPA (IWISH2) National Survey
<b>1.4.b:</b> Proportion of children 1-14 years old (or 1-17) who experience any violent discipline (psychological aggression and/or physical punishment and/or sexual abuse) by caregivers in the last month. (SDG indicator 16.2.1) Reporting focal point(s): UNICEF	80.9% (2018)	40%	CSOGIS

**Thematic Area: Sustainable Cities and Communities**

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>1.5.a:</b> Proportion of urban population living in slums (SDG Indicator 11.1.1) Reporting focal point(s): UN-Habitat	49.3% (2020)	43%	UN-Habitat
<b>1.5.b:</b> Proportion of population using (a) safely managed drinking water services and (b) safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water (SDG Indicators 6.1.1 and 6.2.1a) Reporting focal point(s): UNICEF	(a) 59.7% (Rural: 47.6%; Urban: 64.6%) (b) 37% (2022)	(a) 80% (b) 60%	(a) WHO, UNICEF JMP (b) Environmental survey for WatSan services, MICS, JMP
<b>1.5.c:</b> Proportion of (a) schools and (b) healthcare facilities with access basic WASH services (Proxy for SDG Indicators 4.a.1. and 3.9.2) Reporting focal point(s): UNICEF	(a) 50% (2022) (b) 48% (2021)	(a) 75% (b) 70%	UNICEF

**Strategic Priority 1 Outputs**

**Output 1.1:** Essential health, including One Health, and nutrition services are capacitated, resourced, equipped, and guided by policies and strategies that enable the delivery of accessible and quality health and nutrition services.

**Output 1.2:** Education governance systems strengthened to be able to formulate and implement evidence-based strategies and plans that expand equitable access to quality education at all levels, and education personnel have improved capacities, resources, and facilities to deliver quality education for all learners.

**Output 1.3:** Social protection systems have improved institutional capacities and resources, underpinned by national policies, strategies, and legislation, that improve availability of comprehensive, sustainable, and equitable social protection for all, particularly the most vulnerable populations.

**Output 1.4:** National institutions established, capacitated, and operationalized that provide inclusive, comprehensive, and accessible protection services able to prevent and respond to violations against groups and individuals in vulnerable situations, particularly at-risk women and children.

**Output 1.5:** Institutional and community capacities strengthened to increase availability of affordable and sustainable housing, protect and restore cultural sites and practices, improve access to climate-resilient public services, and enhance public infrastructure.

## Strategic Priority 2:

### Sustainable Economic Development, Livelihoods & Employment

**Outcome 2: By 2029, people in Iraq, particularly women, girls, youth, and groups in vulnerable situations, benefit from more resilient livelihoods and decent work opportunities resulting from a more diversified, inclusive, sustainable, green, and equitable economic development.**

#### UN Partners:

FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UN Women, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, and WFP.

#### Government Partner:

Ministries of () Agriculture; Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities; Education; Environment; Finance; Higher Education and Scientific Research; Industry and Minerals; Labour and Social Affairs; Migration and Displacement; Planning; Trade; Water Resources; Youth and Sports; National Investment Commission; Council of Ministers' National Department of Iraqi Women; Central Bank of Iraq; and local governments.<sup>30</sup>

#### Other Partner:

International and national financial institutions, donor partners, social partners (including private sector actors, professional syndicates, employer's organizations, and trade unions, amongst others), academic institutions (including TVET institutions), international and national NGOs, and women and youth-led organizations.

#### Related SDG Targets:

- Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere (Target 1.4);
- Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (Targets 2.3, 2.4, 2.a);
- Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Targets 5.5, 5.c);
- Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (Targets 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9);
- Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (Targets 9.3, 9.4, 9.b);
- Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries (Target 10.2);
- Goal 12.** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (Targets 12.2, 12.6);
- Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (Targets 17.14, 17.15, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, 17.19).

#### Related 'Six Transitions':

- 1) Food system
- 2) Digital divide and connectivity
- 3) Social protection and decent job creation; and
- 4) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

#### Related NDP Priorities:

- Economic Diversification
- Improving the Business Environment for the Private Sector
- Benefiting from Global Partnerships and Attracting Foreign Investment
- Improving Human Capital and Building Capabilities
- Spatial Development that Enhances Comparative Advantage and Achieves Rural Development

<sup>30</sup> Kurdistan Regional Government partners under this Strategic Priority will include, but not be limited to the Ministries of Culture and Youth; Education; Higher Education and Scientific Research; Labour and Social Affairs; Planning; Interior; Construction and Housing; Municipalities and Tourism; Trade and Industry; Agriculture and Water Resources; Finance and Economy; as well as the Kurdistan Regional Parliament; Department of Information Technology; Board of Environmental Protection and Improvement; High Council for Women and Development; and Board of Investment.

#### Thematic Area: Economic Governance

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>2.1.a:</b> Global Innovation Index (a) Regulatory environment and (b) Regulatory quality scores (Non-SDG indicator) Reporting focal point(s): UNDP	(a) 50.1/100 (106 out of 132 countries) (b) 10.6/100 (129 out of 132 countries) (2022)	(a) 60/100 (b) 20/100	WIPO
<b>2.1.b:</b> Women Business and Rule Law Index Score (0-100, higher is better) (measures how laws and regulations affect women's economic opportunity) (Non-SDG indicator) Reporting focal point(s): UNDP	Total: 48.1/100 (2023) (Mobility: 25; Workplace: 100; Pay: 50; Marriage: 0; Parenting: 20; Entrepreneurship: 100; Assets: 40; Retirement: 50)	75/100	World Bank
<b>2.1.c:</b> (a) Level of national compliance with labour rights, (b) Labour Rights Index score, and (c) International Trade Union Confederation Global Rights Index score (SDG indicator 8.8.2) Reporting focal point(s): ILO	(a) 7.2/10 (2022) (b) 73.5/100 (2022) (c) 5 (no guarantee of rights) (scale from 1-5+, lower is better) (2023)	(a) 5.4 (b) 75 (c) 4	(a) ILOSTAT (b) Centre for Labour Research (c) International Trade Union Confederation

#### Thematic Area: Private Sector Development

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>2.2.a:</b> percentage of employees working in (a) private sectors or (b) the public sectors (an indicator not linked to the Sustainable Development Goals) (Non-SDG indicator) Reporting focal point(s): ILO	(a) Public sector: 37.9% (male 33.7%; female 70.5%) (b) Private sector: 61.6% (male 65.9%; female 29%) (2021) <sup>31</sup>	(a) 30% (male 30%; female 70%) (b) 69% (male 65%; 35% female)	ILO
<b>2.2.b:</b> percentage of firms that cite (a) access to funding, (b) business licences and permits, and (c) corruption as biggest obstacle. (Non-SDG indicator) Reporting focal point(s): ITC	(a) All sizes: 24.8% (small: 24.8%; medium: 26.6%; large 11.4%) (b) All sizes: 11.4% (small: 12.9%; medium: 8.2%; large 4.4%) (c) All sizes: 6.14% (small: 14.6%; medium: 13.3%; large 24.6) (2022)	(a) All sizes: 14% (small: 15%; medium: 18%; large 4%); (b) All sizes: 8% (small: 6%; medium: 5%; large 2%); (c) All sizes: 8.6% (small: 8.6%; medium: 7.3%; large 10.6).	World Bank Enterprise Surveys
<b>2.2.c:</b> Proportion of firms with (a) female participation in ownership, (b) majority female ownership, and (c) a female top manager (Proxy for SDG indicator 5.5.2) Reporting focal point(s): UN Women	(a) 3.8% (b) 3% (c) 1.6% (2022)	(a) 5% (b) 5% (c) 3%	World Bank Enterprise Surveys
<b>2.2.d:</b> Proportion of informal employment in total employment (SDG indicator 8.3.1) Reporting focal point(s): ILO	67.6% (2021) (male 70.5%; female 45.4%)	65% (male 68%; female 42%)	ILOSTAT

#### Thematic Area: Economic Governance

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>2.3.a:</b> Unemployment rate by sex, age, and persons with disabilities (SDG indicator 8.5.2) Reporting focal point(s): ILO	Total: 13.5% (2024) male 14.7%; female 28.2%, youth 35%; Persons with disabilities: 11% (male 9.9%; female 19.6%) in (2024)	14% (male 12%; female 25%; youth 30%)	Iraq Labour Force Survey 2021 (Data for persons with disabilities from ILOSTAT)
<b>2.3.b:</b> Total number of people graduating from technical and vocational education and training centres (Proxy for SDG indicator 1.3.4) Reporting focal point(s): UNESCO, UNFPA	69,000 (2018/2019) (Gross Enrolment Ratio male 7%; female 3%)	293,681 (Cumulative 2025-2029) (Enrolment Rates in education: Male 14%; Female 13%)	Iraq National Education Strategy (2021); Ministry of Education EMIS and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Databases
<b>2.3.c:</b> Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training (SDG indicator 8.6.1)	36.7% (Overall) 22.1% (Males) 52.3% (Females)	-----	Iraq Labour Force Survey 2021

<sup>31</sup> Note: It is likely that the proportion of employees employed in the public sector has increased since the baseline data was collected in 2021. As such, the baselines and targets for this indicator will be reviewed and revised following the completion of a future labour force survey.

## Strategic Priority 2 Outputs

**Output 2.1:** Economic governance institutions and relevant stakeholders have increased capacities for the creation of an enabling policy and regulatory environment that stimulates private sector development, particularly for MSMEs, in emerging sustainable and job-intensive sectors, and upholds labour rights.

**Output 2.2:** Private sector enterprises, particularly youth and women-led MSMEs and entrepreneurs, have increased access to quality business development and financial services and technologies that improve their performance, competitiveness, resilience, and survivability.

**Output 2.3:** Capacities and resources of professional training and employment service institutions and stakeholders are improved so that people, particularly women and youth, have relevant demand-driven training, skills, and experience that meet current and emerging labour market needs.

### Strategic Priority 3:

#### Environment & Climate Change Resilience

**Outcome 3: By 2029, people in Iraq, particularly women, girls, youth, and groups in vulnerable situations, live in a clean, healthy, safe, and resilient environment and have increased resilience to climate change impacts and disaster risks.**

#### UN Partners:

FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UN Women, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, WFP, and WHO.

#### Government Partner:

Ministries of Agriculture; Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities; Education; Electricity; Environment; Finance; Foreign Affairs; Health; Higher Education and Scientific Research; Housing, Construction, and Municipalities; Interior; Industry and Minerals; Justice; Labour and Social Affairs; Migration and Displacement; Oil; Planning; Transport; Water Resources; Youth and Sports; Council of Ministers' National Department of Iraqi Women; National Directorate of Iraqi Women; National Disabilities Commission; Prime Minister's Office Advisory Commission; National Investment Commission; relevant Parliamentary Committees; Central Bank of Iraq; and local governments.<sup>32</sup>

#### Other Partner:

Regional and international environmental platforms and mechanisms, academic institutions, national and international NGOs, civil society and community-based organizations, civic and voluntary organizations, international financial institutions, donor partners, private sector and social partners, and water management related actors

#### Related SDG Targets:

**Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere (Target 1.5);

**Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Targets 5.1, 5.a);

**Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (Targets 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6);

**Goal 7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (Targets 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.a);

**Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Targets 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.b);

**Goal 12.** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (Targets 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.8);

**Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (Targets 13.1, 13.2, 13.3);

**Goal 15.** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (Targets 15.1, 15.3, 15.5);

**Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (Targets 17.14, 17.15, 17.16, 17.17).

#### Related 'Six Transitions':

1) Food systems;

3) Education systems; and

2) Energy Access and Affordability;

4) Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution

#### Related NDP Priorities:

• Positive Adaptation to Climate Change

• Spatial Development that Enhances Comparative Advantage and Achieves Rural Development

#### Thematic Area: procedures related to Climate Change

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>3.1.a:</b> INFORM Climate Change Risk Index: Lack of coping capacity score <sup>33</sup> (Scale from 0-10 and classification of risk from very low to very high) (Non-SDG indicator) Reporting focal point(s): RCO	6.5 (Very High) (2022)	6.2 (High)	European Commission Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre ND-GAIN index
<b>3.1.b:</b> CO2 emissions from fuel combustion: (a) total and (b) per capita (Non-SDG indicator) Reporting focal point(s): UNDP	<b>(a)</b> 124.698 cytochrome of CO2 (71.6% oil, 28.4% natural gas) <b>(b)</b> 2.864 tonnes (2021)	<b>(a)</b> 122.204 cytochrome of CO2 <b>(b)</b> 2.444 tonnes	International Energy Agency; National Communications
<b>3.1.c:</b> Renewable energy as a proportion of total electricity generation (Proxy for SDG indicator 7.2.1) Reporting focal point(s): UNDP	5% (mostly from hydroelectricity power) (2022)	10% (hydroelectricity, solar, wind, and waste to energy)	Reporting by Ministry of Electricity

#### Thematic Area: Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Management

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>3.2.a:</b> National estimates of the average proportion of Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas covered by protected areas. (Proxy for SDG indicator 15.2.2) Reporting focal point(s): UNEP	5.58% (2020)	50%	UN Convention to Combat Desertification: Performance review and assessment of implementation system

#### Thematic Area: Efficient use and management of water resources

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>3.3.a:</b> Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100) (SDG indicator 6.5.1) Reporting focal point(s): UNEP	44 (medium low) (2023)	71-90 (high)	UNEP IWRM Data Portal
<b>3.3.b:</b> Change in water-use efficiency over time <sup>34</sup> (SDG indicator 6.4.1) Reporting focal point(s): FAO	4.22 US\$/m3 (2021)	7.50 US\$/m3 (Government of Iraq estimates)	FAOSTAT
<b>3.3.c:</b> Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (SDG indicator 6.4.2) Reporting focal point(s): FAO	59.58% (2021)	53.62%	FAOSTAT

#### Thematic Area: Efficient use and management of water resources

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>3.4.a:</b> Number of people newly displaced in Iraq due to disasters (annual) (Proxy for SDG indicator 11.5.1) Reporting focal point(s): IOM	37,890 All drought related	20,000	Displacement Tracking Matrix Climate-Induced Displacement Monitoring; International Federation of the Red Cross/ Crescent
<b>3.4.b:</b> World Risk Index Score (Range from 0-100, lower score corresponds to higher risk) (Non-SDG indicator) Reporting focal point(s): UNDRR	Overall score: 9.23 (2023) (Rank 63/193 countries) Exposure: 1.72; Vulnerability: 49.55; Susceptibility: 36.65; Lack of coping capacities: 66.59; Adaptive capacities: 49.85.	Overall score: 20	Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft, Ruhr University Bochum – Institute for International Law of Peace and Conflict
<b>3.4.c:</b> Existence of national disaster risk reduction strategy in line with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SDG indicator 11.b.1) Reporting focal point(s): UNDRR	No (2024)	Yes	UNDRR

<sup>32</sup> Kurdistan Regional Government partners under this Strategic Priority will include, but not be limited to the Ministries Health; Interior (Joint Crisis Coordination Center); Planning; Municipalities and Tourism; Construction and Housing; Culture and Youth; Agriculture and Water Resources; as well as the High Council for Women and Development; Board of Environmental Protection and Improvement; and the Office of the Prime Minister (Climate Change Office).

<sup>33</sup> Lack of coping capacity is assessed against two dimensions, both comprising several categories, notably 1) Institutional (encompassing Disaster risk reduction and Governance), and 2) Infrastructure (encompassing Communication, Physical infrastructure, and Access to health system).

<sup>34</sup> Water-use efficiency measured as the ratio of Iraqi dinar value added to the volume of water used. It considers water use by all economic activities, with a focus on agriculture, industry and the service sectors.

### Strategic Priority 3 Outputs

**Output 3.1:** Institutional and community capacity is strengthened at all levels to support implementation of Iraq's climate commitments – including in the areas of adaptation and resilience, mitigation, and finance.

**Output 3.2:** Government institutions and communities are capacitated to protect and restore biodiversity, manage ecosystems, and tackle environmental pollution.

**Output 3.3:** Government institutions, communities, and individuals are equipped with the knowledge, technology, and skills to improve efficient use and management of water resources.

**Output 3.4:** National and sub-national institutions and communities have improved capacities and resources to prepare, prevent, mitigate, and respond to disaster risks in urban and rural areas.

## Strategic Priority 4:

### Good Governance, Rule of Law

**Outcome 4: By 2029, people in Iraq, particularly women, girls, youth, and groups in vulnerable situations, benefit from transparent, accountable, inclusive, and effective governance in institutions that enhance stability and rule of law.**

#### UN Partners:

FAO, ILO, IOM, , UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, , UNMAS, UNOPS, UNODC, and WFP.

#### Government Partner:

Ministries of (and their sub-national equivalents) Communications;; Environment;; Environment; Justice; Labour and Social Affairs; Migration and Displacement; Planning; Office of the Prime Minister;; Cabinet of Ministers Secretariat; Commission of Integrity; Council of Representatives; Independent High Electoral Commission; Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights; National Committees to Counter Hate Speech and Prevent Violent Extremism; Council of Minister's National Department of Iraqi Women; Parliamentary Committees on Human Rights and Women and Children; State Council; Supreme Board of Audit.<sup>35</sup>

#### Other Partner:

National justice institutions; and stakeholder donors.

#### Related SDG Targets:

**Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere (Target 1.4);

**Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Targets 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 5.c);

**Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (Target 8.7);

**Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries (Targets 10.2, 10.3, 10.7);

**Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (Targets 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 16.a, 16.b);

**Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (Targets 17.14, 17.15, 17.16, 17.18, 17.19).

#### Related 'Six Transitions':

1) Digital divide and connectivity

#### Related NDP Priorities:

- Good Governance
- Spatial Development that Enhances Comparative Advantage and Achieves Rural Development
- Digital Transformation and Systems Automation

### Thematic Area: Inclusive, Effective, and Accountable Governance

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>4.1.a:</b> Worldwide Governance Indicators scores (Scores range between -2.5 and 2.5. Higher is better) (Proxy for SDG indicator 16.7.2) <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNDP</i>	(a) Control of corruption: -1.21 (b) Government effectiveness: -1.3 (c) Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism: -2.5 (d) Regulatory quality: -1.18 (e) Rule of Law: -1.75 (f) Voice and Accountability: -0.95 (2022)	(a) Greater than -0.97 (b) Greater than -0.85 (c) Greater than -1.5 (d) Greater than -0.89 (e) Greater than -0.91 (f) Greater than -0.2	World Bank – Worldwide Governance Indicators
<b>4.1.b:</b> Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament; local governments (SDG indicator 5.5.1) <i>Reporting focal point(s): UN Women</i>	(a) Proportion of women in Parliament: 28.9% (95/329); (b) Women in ministerial positions: 13% (3/23). (2023)	(a) 35% (b) 25%	Inter-Parliamentary Union
<b>4.1.c:</b> Legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor equality between sexes (percentage of achievement, 0 - 100) (SDG indicator 5.1.1) <i>Reporting focal point(s): UN Women</i>	<b>Area 1:</b> Overarching legal frameworks and public life: 45.5%; <b>Area 2:</b> Violence against women: 55.6%; <b>Area 3:</b> Employment and economic benefits: 70%; <b>Area 4:</b> Marriage and family: 36.4% (2022)	Area 1: 55% Area 2: 60% Area 3: 75% Area 4: 45	UN Women
<b>4.1.d:</b> Participation rate in national and local elections (disaggregated by age and sex). (Non-SDG indicator) <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNDP</i>	Voter turnout: 43% (2021) (48% of voters were female and 52% were male)	60% (at next national election)	Independent High Electoral Commission
<b>4.1.e:</b> Varieties of Democracy (a) Additive Polyarchy Index; <sup>36</sup> b) Civil Liberties Index, and (c) Civil Society Participation Index scores (range from 0-1, higher is better) (Proxy for SDG indicator 17.17.1) <i>Reporting focal point(s):</i>	(a) 0.62 (b) 0.49 (c) 0.61 (2023)	(a) 0.85 (b) 0.70 (c) 0.85	Varieties of Democracy
<b>4.1.f:</b> UN E-Governance Knowledgebase (a) E-Government Development Index and (b) E-Participation Index scores (Scores range between 0 and 1. Higher is better) (Non-SDG indicator) <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNDP</i>	(a) 0.43830 (Rank 146 out of 193 countries) (b) 0.21590 (Rank 153 out of 193 countries) (2022)	(a) 0.60 (Rank 110 out of 193 countries) (b) 0.45 (Rank 120 out of 193 countries)	UNDESA
<b>4.1.g:</b> National Statistical Performance Indicator score. (Proxy for SDG indicators 17.18.2 and 17.18.3) <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNFPA</i>	56.3/100 (2022)	65/100	World Bank - Statistical Performance Indicators
<b>4.1.h:</b> World Press Freedom Index score (Proxy for SDG indicators 16.10.1 and 16.10.2) <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNESCO</i>	25.48/100 (2024) (Rank 169 out of 180 countries)	44/100	Reporters Without Borders

<sup>35</sup> Kurdistan Regional Government partners under this Strategic Priority will include, but not be limited to the Ministries Labour and Social Affairs; Planning; Health; Justice (including Supreme Judicial Council); Education; Higher Education and Scientific Research; Endowment and Religious Affairs; Culture and Youth; Peshmerga Affairs; Interior; as well as the Kurdistan Regional Parliament; Presidency of Kurdistan Region of Iraq; Council of Ministers; Kurdistan Region Security Council; High Council for Women and Development; Parliamentary Women's Committee; General Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women; Independent High Commission of Human Rights; Independent High Electoral Commission; Judicial Council; Commission for Investigation and Gathering Evidence; Regional Statistics Office; Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency; Office of the Prime Minister; Office of the Coordinator for International Advocacy; and Kurdistan Journalists Syndicate.

<sup>36</sup> Measures the extent to which the electoral principle of democracy achieved. This is presumed to be achieved when suffrage is extensive; political and civil society organizations can operate freely; elections are clean and not marred by fraud or systematic irregularities; and the chief executive of a country is selected directly or indirectly through elections.

**Thematic Area: Justice, and the Rule of Law**

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>4.2.a:</b> Proportion of community members who report an improvement in the quality of services provided by the Police <i>(Non-SDG indicator)</i> <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNODC</i>	83.5% (2022)	85%	UNDP Public Perception Survey
<b>4.2.b:</b> Proportion of community members who report to be satisfied with justice services <i>(Non-SDG indicator)</i> <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNODC</i>	87.5% (2022)	89%	UNDP Public Perception Survey
<b>4.1.c:</b> Conviction rate in drug trafficking cases vis-à-vis arrests made <i>(Non-SDG indicator)</i> <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNODC</i>	53.6% (2023)	75%	Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice

**Thematic Area:**

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>4.3.b:</b> Extent to which national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Refugee Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol <i>(Non-SDG indicator)</i> <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNHCR</i>	65% (2023)	100%	UNHCR, Publication and Enactment of new Refugee Law by the Federal Republic of Iraq, SDG Appraisal Tool, Global Compact on Refugees indicator framework
<b>4.3.c:</b> Proportion of Iraqi citizens entitled by domestic law to Iraqi nationality that have their national identity documents secured <i>(Non-SDG indicator)</i> <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNHCR</i>	92% (2023)	100%	UNHCR, Government registration data
<b>4.3.d:</b> Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age <i>(SDG indicator 16.9.1)</i> <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNICEF</i>	99.8% (5.6% of those registered do not have a birth certificate)	99.9% (3% of those registered do not have a birth certificate)	UNICEF (MICs)
# sqm of land made safe from explosive remnants of war for development activities and productive use of land <i>(Non-SDG indicator)</i> <i>Reporting focal point(s): UNMAS</i>	2,600,000 sqm (2023)	3,000,000 sqm	Meeting Minutes, Reports

**Thematic Area: Promoting Peace and Community Cohesion**

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (end 2029)	Means of Verification
<b>4.4.a:</b> Number of IDPs in Iraq <i>(Non-SDG indicator)</i> <i>Reporting focal point(s): IOM, UN Women</i>	1,053,038 (31 Aug 2024)	0	IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix Ministry of Migration and Displaced

**Strategic Priority 3 Outputs**

**Output 4.1:** Governance and oversight institutions at all levels are more inclusive, effective, accountable, and capacitated to better undertake their functions for the benefit of the population, particularly the most marginalized, in accordance with evidence-based legislative frameworks that meet international norms and standards.

**Output 4.2:** People-centred justice sector institutions are more resourced, functional, and capable of maintaining stability and upholding the rule of law, including through improved access to justice for all, in accordance with international norms and standards.

**Output 4.3:** Enhancing digital transformation and service quality

**Output 4.4:** Inclusive, participatory, stability and social cohesion processes and initiatives strengthened and institutionalized

## ANNEX II Legal Annex

1. Whereas the Government of Iraq (the "Government") has entered into the agreements listed below with the United Nations, including its Funds, Programmes and other subsidiary organs, and other organizations of the United Nations system ("United Nations System Organizations") that apply to their programmatic activities in Iraq ("United Nations Agreements") under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework ("Cooperation Framework");

2. Whereas the United Nations Agreements, together with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations dated February 13, 1946 ("General Convention") and/or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies dated November 21, 1947 ("Specialized Agencies Convention") as applicable, form the primary existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government and each United Nations System Organization to support the country in implementing the Cooperation Framework, and are not exhaustive and without prejudice to any other legal instruments that may be concluded by the Government, including additional agreements with United Nations System Organizations, for the purpose of their activities in the country:

a) the Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have concluded a basic agreement ("Standard Basic Assistance Agreement" or "SBAA"), to govern the assistance provided by UNDP to the country, signed by both parties on October 2, 1976. This Cooperation Framework, together with a joint results group work plan (which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference) constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA. The implementing partner and UNDP will sign a project agreement containing the specific arrangements for each project further to the relevant project document.

b) the Government and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) signed a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) on April 11, 1984.

c) the Government and the World Food Programme (WFP) signed a Basic Agreement concerning assistance provided by WFP on May 6, 1968.

d) the Government and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) signed a Basic Cooperation Agreement on June 30, 2017.

e) the Government and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) signed an agreement for the establishment of a FAO Representation in Iraq on April 7, 1979.

f) the Government and the International Labour Organization (ILO) concluded a Standard Agreement concerning technical assistance on June 19, 1960, which was amended on December 1, 1965.

g) the Government and the World Health Organization (WHO) signed a Basic Agreement on October 18, 1961.

h) the Government and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) concluded an Agreement on Cooperation on December 3, 2009.

i) with regard to the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement concluded between the Government and UNDP on 20 October 1976 applies mutatis mutandis to the activities of UNOPS and its personnel.

3. With respect to all United Nations System Organizations: Assistance to the Government shall be provided and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions, decisions, rules, and procedures of each United Nations System Organization.

#### 4. Immunities and Privileges

First: The privileges, immunities, and exemptions contained in the General Convention, the Specialized Agencies Convention, and the United Nations Agreements, shall be observed. This Cooperation Framework shall not be deemed to create any new immunities.

Second: The provisions of the General Convention, the Specialized Agencies Convention, and the United Nations Agreements, including the applicable liability regime if any, shall apply to each organization of the United Nations system, its property, funds, assets, and personnel.

5. United Nations Volunteers performing services on behalf of a UN System Organization shall be entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to officials of such UN System Organization.

6. Without prejudice to the UN Agreements, the Government shall be responsible for dealing with any claims which may be brought by third parties against any of the UN System Organizations and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf, and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the Cooperation Framework, except where it is mutually agreed by the Government and the relevant UN System Organization(s) that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that UN System Organization, or its officials, or persons performing services.

7. Nothing in or relating to this Cooperation Framework shall be deemed:

(i) a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of any UN System Organization; or

(ii) the acceptance by any UN System Organization of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising from this Cooperation Framework,

whether under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention, the UN Agreements, or otherwise, and no provisions of this Cooperation Framework shall be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, that is inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

## ANNEX III Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers

This section applies only to those UN system agencies following Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) procedures, namely WFP, FAO<sup>37</sup>, ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, or WHO.

All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the workplans<sup>38</sup> agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in workplans can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:
  - a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
  - b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement);
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN<sup>39</sup> Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by

the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner within the number of days consistent with each UN agencies' guidelines.

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within the number of days consistent with each UN agencies' guidelines.

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third-party vendor.

Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the workplan, will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that the relevant UN agency will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated

official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the workplans only.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the workplans, and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to the relevant UN agency within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the workplans, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to the relevant UN agency within six months after receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from a UN organization (WFP, FAO, ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, or WHO) will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:

- all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by the relevant UN agency, together with relevant documentation;
- all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and UN organization (WFP, FAO, ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, or

WHO). Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:

- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the relevant UN agency that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to the UN agency.
- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.

Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI), on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

The audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.

Implementing partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies. To that effect, implementing partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/contracts with the UN system agencies.
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring.
3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of implementing partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

<sup>37</sup> FAO's policy and tools for transferring funds to implementing/ operational partners (MS701/ OPIM) are aligned with the HACT framework.

<sup>38</sup> Refers to results groups' or agency-specific annual, biannual, or multiyear workplans.

<sup>39</sup> For the purposes of these clauses, "the UN" includes the international financial institutions.

# ANNEX IV Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan

Description of Activities	Objective	Frequency	Lead	Contributors/ Support	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
<b>Data and Research</b>									
Update of the Common Country Analysis	Update data (including SDG related data) and review and assess changes in the country context to ensure the UN Cooperation Framework and related programming remain relevant and responsive to national needs.	Annually	RCO	PMT, Results Groups	●	●	●	●	●
Support annual Voluntary National Review (VNR)	Support Iraq's assessment of its progress towards SDGs. Ensure CCA's SDG analysis contributes to Iraq's VNR.	When/if planned	RCO, SDG taskforce	ESCWA, PMT, DM&E Working Group	●	●	●	●	●
Support Government and national counterparts to enable them to conduct data collection processes in different thematic sectors.	To support the establishment and strengthening of national information management system (e.g., DHIS, EMIS).	As needed	Relevant UN agencies	PMT, Results Groups, DM&E Working Group, RCO	●	●	●	●	●
Conduct coordinated research, assessments, special studies, and diagnostics.	To strengthen evidence generation to inform the UN Cooperation Framework implementation.	As needed	Relevant UN agencies	PMT, Results Groups, DM&E Working Group, RCO	●	●	●	●	●
Develop and update catalogue of existing research studies, data, analysis, evaluation reports, etc.	Establish a holistic repository to inform future development planning and policy making across concerned UN-entities and Government.	To be updated quarterly	RCO / DM&E Working Group	PMT, Youth, and SDG 5 Working Groups	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Planning and Monitoring</b>									
Develop and update Joint Workplan	To operationalize the UN Cooperation Framework and identify opportunities to enhancing multi-agency collaboration, e.g., through joint programmes.	Biannually for updating joint workplans	Results Groups	PMT, DM&E Working Group, RCO	●	●	●	●	●
Convene Results Groups meetings	Discuss progress, challenges, opportunities, and new learning, as well as how to adapt implementation of joint workplan.	Bi-monthly	Results Groups Chairs	Results Groups Members, PMT, RCO	●	●	●	●	●
Collect, update, and reflect quality assured, agency-specific, and/or joint agency progress Joint Workplan data on UNINFO	Provide updates on the progress of indicators to monitor and report on the Joint Workplan sub-outputs, outputs, and outcomes. Improve UNCT coherence, transparency, and accountability.	Annually	PMT	Result Groups, DM&E Working Group, RCO	●	●	●	●	●
Conduct joint field monitoring visits to supported joint programmes/interventions in a specific geographic area or a specific sector	Monitor the progress of implementation, identify and document challenges on the ground, develop recommendations. Increase accountability of the UN before Government/ national stakeholders.	One visit per joint programme or as needed	Relevant UN entities	DM&E Working Group members (as appropriate), RCO	●	●	●	●	●
Coordinated implementation of mainstreaming work recommended by Thematic Working Groups	To support joined up approach to advance equality and empowerment and facilitate dialogue and coordination on related issues.	As needed	Thematic Working Group Chairs	Thematic Working Groups, PMT, RCO	●	●	●	●	●

Description of Activities	Objective	Frequency	Lead	Contributors/ Support	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
<b>Review and Reporting</b>									
Develop a UN Annual Results Report	Report on the annual system-wide results achieved under the UN Cooperation Framework.	Annually	PMT, Results Groups, RCO	DM&E Working Group	●	●	●	●	●
Review progress achieved under Joint Workplan	Review progress achieved under agency-specific and agency joint sub-outputs per outcome area, including to inform UN annual results reporting.	Annually / as needed	Result Groups, PMT	DM&E Working Group, RCO	●	●	●	●	●
Conduct Joint UN-Government Steering Committee performance review of the UN Cooperation Framework	Assess progress against delivery of the UN Cooperation Framework and joint workplans, identify lessons learned and best practices, and propose any amendments to the Framework and/or workplans.	Annually	Joint Steering Committee	UNCT, PMT, Results Groups	●	●	●	●	●
Independent evaluation of UN Joint Programmes	Track progress, assess effectiveness of interventions, generate lessons learned and raise accountability to inform next joint programmes.	End term	Independent evaluation team	Implementing UN entities	●	●	●	●	●
Evaluation of agencies Country Programming instruments (in accordance with Agencies' respective policies on evaluations)	Ensure the accountability of each Agency's contribution to Iraq's development, as well as their contributions to UN Cooperation Framework outcomes, and reflect lessons learned.	Penultimate year of Agencies' programme cycles.	Independent evaluation team	Respective UN entities, DM&E Working Group, RCO	●	●	●	●	●
Commission an independent evaluation of the UN Cooperation Framework.	Ensure accountability of the UN system for its collective contribution to Iraq's SDG achievement, as well as consolidate lessons learned for a next UN Cooperation Framework.	Penultimate year of the Cooperation Framework	Independent evaluation team	RCO, PMT, Results Groups, DM&E Working Group	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Learning</b>									
Post UN Cooperation Framework Evaluation Management Response and Action Plan	To ensure implementation of evaluation's recommendations. Improve UNCT's efficiency and effectiveness.	Penultimate year of UN Cooperation Framework	PMT, Evaluation Steering Committee	DM&E Working Group	●	●	●	●	●
Technical training for the DM&E Working Group and Result Group members and chairs on UNINFO	To ensure accurate understanding of reporting requirements and methodologies using UNINFO.	First year of implementation and/or as needed	RCO	DM&E Working Group, Result Group Chairs, RCO	●	●	●	●	●
Combined technical training for the DM&E Working Group on guiding principles for monitoring techniques	To ensure that data needed to report on UN Cooperation Framework indicators related to the guiding principles is gathered as planned and progress against indicators is accurately assessed.	Annually or as needed	Office of the Resident Coordinator, Head of data Monitoring and Evaluation group	DM&E Working Group	●	●	●	●	●
Establish a learning mechanism to document, analyse, and share emerging lessons learned throughout the UN Cooperation Framework cycle	To improve performance by ensuring that lessons learnt and best practices and shared among agencies and key stakeholders and are incorporated into the programmes cycle.	Annually	DM&E Working Group	PMT, Result Groups, RCO	●	●	●	●	●
Establishment of a UN Data, M&E, and Learning Strategy, and development of costed DM&E plan	To ensure coherent UN response towards data collection, analysis, and use of evidence to inform policy and programmes.	First year of implementation	DM&E Working Group	RCO	●	●	●	●	●

## ANNEX V Summary of Stakeholder Consultations

In the spirit of *SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals*, the formulation of the UN Cooperation Framework included an extensive consultation process engaging key stakeholders to ensure that the Strategic Priorities and outcomes of the Framework were representative of the views and underpinned by the needs of all partners in Iraq. The following provides a summary of consultations undertaken and should not be considered exhaustive.

The UN Cooperation Framework development process was initiated at a meeting of the Joint UN-Government Steering Committee on May 28, 2023, attended by 30 senior UN and officials, where Government partners were sensitized on the process. A detailed workshop was later held with UN and Government representatives on the 25 September 2023 on the UN Cooperation Framework where it was agreed that a dedicated Joint Technical Committee would be established under the leadership of the Minister of Planning and the UN Resident Coordinator, and with representation across Government ministries and departments and UN agencies, to ensure effective coordination and consultation across sectors throughout the duration of the process. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 27 February 2024, which was followed by sectoral-level sub-group meetings on 25–26 March 2024 within which further technical discussions were undertaken.

Government of Iraq entities consulted through the Joint Technical Committee include the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Migration and Displacement, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance, Supreme Judicial Council, Federal Integrity Commission, and the Council of Ministers Secretariat (including Women Empowerment Unit).

Additional consultations were held with Kurdistan Regional Government entities on January 30, 2024 including the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Office of the Prime Minister, Board of Investment, Board of Environmental Protection and Improvement, Council

of Ministers, Department of Coordination and Follow-up, and High Council of Women and Development. Additional sub-national consultations were held with governing authorities and local stakeholders, notably in Basra (13 May 2024), Kirkuk (20 and 23 May 2024), and Ninewa (3 and 11 June 2024).

Wide-ranging consultations were held with various civil society organizations, including women (23 November 2023) and youth (30 November and 6 February 2024) civil society, and representatives of vulnerable and marginalized groups — including persons with disabilities (13 December 2023), and IDPs and refugees (29 January 2024), etc.

Various social partners were also engaged, including private sector actors, professional syndicates, employer's organizations, and trade unions, amongst others. These included engagement with the Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce, Baghdad Chamber of Commerce, Erbil Chamber of Commerce, Basra Chamber of Commerce, Anbar Chamber of Industry, Iraqi Federation of Industries, and Iraqi Farmers Federation (March 2024), as well as the Iraqi Trade Union Council<sup>40</sup> and The Conference of Iraqi Federations and Workers Unions (May/June 2024).<sup>41</sup>

Strategic and technical-level engagements were undertaken with international development partners, including the embassies and/or agencies for development cooperation of Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America (7 November 2023, 15–18 April 2024, and 27 May 2024), as well as international financial institutions, particularly the World Bank (November 29, 2024) and the International Monetary Fund (7 December 2023). International NGOs engaged include World Vision, REACH, Acted, Save the Children, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), Lutheran World Relief, DanChurchAid, and the International Rescue Committee (28 January 2024).

<sup>40</sup> Representing The General Federation of Trade Unions of the Republic of Iraq; The General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions; The General National Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions; The Central National Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions; and The General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions and Employees.

<sup>41</sup> Representing The Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions; The General Federation of Workers' Unions in Iraq; The Federation of Workers and Councils Unions in Iraq; The General Federation of Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Unions in Iraq; The Federation of Independent Trade and Professional Unions in Iraq; and The Union of Technical Engineering Professions.

